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THURSDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 2011

Fighting back the tears... a young mum tells son's schoolmates... 'MY TOBIAS IS STILL TOBIAS'

Report by
TIM CHAPMAN

IT was a day Fiona Lunnion had dreaded, but fighting back the tears on a visit to Ysgol

Gwaun y Nant in Barry, she explained to the pupils how her son Tobias had lost the use of his arms and legs in a road traffic collision

Tobias, aged six, was paralysed down the neck down in the collision last August and remains in Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

There was rapt attention from the year-2 children, Tobias's former classmates, as Fiona

explained what had left her son requiring 24-hour a day care.

"I know you have seen the pictures in The GEM of Tobias with a ventilator tube in his neck.

"His neck got pushed round a lot and it got damaged at the top.

"The nerves at the top of his neck were squeezed so much they don't work.

"It is very sad and

he is being very brave."

The one question the children were quick to ask was: "How is Tobias now?"

Fiona said: "Although he has been like this for six months, he is still very feisty and says things like 'don't forget my ventilator tube' and 'I want it the other way round'.

"He is still very strong and clever, and likes his own way.

"He is like the boss of the hospital and likes to tell the nurses what to do.

"Every day he is hoisted up into his chair and put in a pushchair to keep his neck straight.

"At the hospital school he did a test which showed he was two years cleverer than the age of six."

The headteacher, Mr Rhyddian Lloyd, quipped: "Of course he is, he went to Ysgol Gwaun y Nant!"

As Fiona showed the pupils the latest pictures of Tobias on her camera, she emphasised:

"He has an amazing brain, character and intelligence - he is the same person as before, but has just lost his movement."

Mr Lloyd said: "The children are so excited to see Fiona and hear how Tobias is doing. They also like to keep in touch with him online."

He told Fiona:

"Make sure you ruffle his hair for me!"

Fiona was on a short whistle-stop tour of Barry and west Wales to thank the people who have supported her family through such a difficult time in their lives.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



ABOVE: Fiona Lunnion (second right, back row) was welcomed back to Ysgol Gwaun y Nant by the headteacher Mr Rhyddian Lloyd, staff and pupils who were anxious to hear how Tobias was.

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Confusion over refuse collection

SINCE the snowfall before Christmas, residents throughout Barry have seen an increase in black bags lining our streets.

Across Barry, bin mountains are starting to appear as the public struggle to deal with the situation, without being given the right information.

This issue is a recurring theme in my discussions with residents within the Dyfan ward.

Many residents have noted this trend and are questioning whether the council are getting confused with their own policy.

The snow has meant that normal collections were cancelled and many residents across Barry have been struggling to understand when collection will take place without the necessary information on revised schedules.

The problem appears to have arisen as a result of the switch to fortnightly bin collection, the disruption in normal

bin collection and the increase in bins that normally arises over the Christmas period.

The lack of information has meant that many residents have been putting their rubbish out onto the streets to be collected, only to have to take them back inside when collections have not taken place.

It is clear that the Vale Council need to rectify these teething problem and give the Barry Town public what they deserve.

At this stage it is clear that the switch to a fortnightly collection service has been problematic and is not working.

It is strange how our neighbours, Cardiff, as the capital city, have a collection once a week – while Barry, being the biggest town in Wales, has a collection once every two weeks.

Jeffrey Heathfield
FocusBARRY independent candidate for Dyfan ward, Barry Town Council

Banks: nothing has been learnt

IAM extremely surprised that the recent global bank collapse has not produced any fundamental changes in the control of the boardrooms of banks.

I had imagined that, now that the widespread, dishonest practices had been revealed, the only advantage of the misery which had damaged so many millions of lives, was that we would all agree, governments, nations and people, to control and modify the banking industry – to raise standards of integrity and transparency, and face down arrogant threats

that they would not cooperate.

Instead, we have shameless bankers telling us that they must continue to pay huge bonuses, in order to get the 'best people'.

But that was exactly the problem which destroyed the industry: they did pay out huge bonuses, and they did get the very worst kind of people, the greediest, most self-centred, and executives who ruined their own industry, for exactly that reason, to fill their own bottomless pockets.

The truth is not now, but they have learnt nothing.
Neville Westerman, Brynna

FocusBARRY a non-political group?

FOCUS BARRY keep reminding us that they are a non-political organisation.

I find this hard to believe when several of the group seem to be disgruntled ex-party members.

Julie Aviet-Frassinelli, Barry

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White Farm homes plan: Developer replies to concerns

THERE has been much commentary and speculation in recent months on whether the new homes at White Farm Barns will increase the prospect of flooding downstream of the site.

As a homeowner myself and a housebuilder by trade, I can fully understand the anxiety and concern which the prospect of increased flooding can prompt amongst residents who consider themselves at risk.

This is an issue which deserves expert answers and solutions. At present, rain water simply rolls off the land at White Farm and flows downstream into the Lower Coldbrook catchment.

There is nothing to manage or slow-down the flow. The volume is entirely determined by the amount of rainfall.

The development at White Farm must not result in the existing situation being made worse and, if possible, should seek ways in which to improve matters.

We believe that the drainage design we are currently working on will achieve this.

Clearly, we all have our views as to what we believe will or will not work. Ultimately, however, we have to rely on the expertise of specialist engineers to determine what is acceptable.

The Environment Agency and Vale of Glamorgan Council require us to compose a flood mitigation and drainage strategy which meets their technical requirements.

A force to be reckoned with

IWRITE with reference to the rather scathing attack on FocusBarry and Jeffrey Heathfield in The GEM on January 13 ('FocusBarry and reality') – courtesy of Coun Rob Curtis.

As a Labour councillor, he is resorting to the same sort of tactics as those of which he wrongly accuses Jeff Heathfield and FocusBarry.

I find it very distasteful indeed that a so-called staunch Labour member can actually justify those unkind and

misleading statements.

The Labour party started life as an idea, with one initial member and then grew from strength-to-strength; much in the same way that FocusBarry will grow, brick upon brick.

The people of Barry have had enough of less than watertight promises and that is why FocusBarry is fast becoming recognisable as a force to be reckoned with.

I have dissolved all my ties with Labour and am also looking for a ward in which to stand as an independent.
Barrie V Evans, Barry Island

Search for pictures

IAM in the process of completing the book *Cowbridge Art Society: A Historical commentary 1960-2010* and seek help to trace a number of pictures which were exhibited in the 1970 exhibition of the society.

The purpose is to obtain permission from owners to include them in the publication, scheduled for the end of March.

The pictures are: West

Docks, Cardiff – AH Morgan-Hall; Cardiff Docks – AH Morgan-Hall; Kinetic Grid – Clodagh Cravos; Red Rum – Clodagh Cravos; Aberiddy – Dulcie Mayne-Stephens.

However, if there are other pictures by these artists, knowledge of their whereabouts would also be helpful.

If any reader is able to assist in this search, it will be much appreciated. Please telephone 01446 772063 or e-mail Phillips 554@binternet.com
John Phillips, Llansannor

Both bodies will examine the proposals in detail and they will make the final decision as to whether we have provided a technically viable solution.

We hope to achieve this shortly, following which we will be in position to provide local residents with more detailed information about the development generally – and the flood and drainage mitigation measures in particular.

Steve Williams, Managing Director, Persimmon Homes East Wales

Young don't need a party voice...

IT really is becoming tiresome to respond, yet again, to a letter from a Labour Party member ('Young people are interested', The GEM, January 20), which misleads readers about FocusBARRY.

Camilla Beaven writes about a letter from FocusBARRY: there is no indication to which letter she refers, but I can assure people that it was not from FocusBARRY.

Perhaps Ms Beaven means my letter about Ed Milliband's offer to join Labour for one penny "and we will be your voice". That letter was clearly written in my name, using my address, so I will respond to her allegation in the context of my letter.

She says that FocusBARRY "suggested that young people have a low interest in politics". My letter suggested no such thing: I said "young people don't appear to want political parties to speak for them," a significant and clear difference.

I referred to the use young people make of the internet. One only has to look at how they express themselves on Twitter, Facebook and the blogs to realise they do not need the Labour Party to be their 'voice'.

Readers may be interested to know that young people in full time education will be allowed to join FocusBARRY free of charge.

These misleading letters from party members do nothing to improve the public's perception of the local Labour party.
Dennis Harkus, Barry

Sterling leadership

ON behalf of hundreds of people involved with The Prince's Trust in Wales during the 80/90s, be they volunteers or young people who were recipients of the various assistance this organisation offers, I would like

to recognise the sterling leadership that the late Susan Williams gave during her stewardship as Chair of The Prince's Trust in Wales.
Robert Griffiths, Ex-Chair PT Business Start-up, West Glamorgan.

Getting value for money

IAM afraid I must come out against the Welsh Assembly having any more powers, especially in the area of being able to raise taxes.

I often wonder whether the things they already spend money on are really thought through and that the Assembly gets value for money?

Although I love wildlife, I wonder whether the best deal was obtained in the spending of £147,000 on a bridge over the road to make safe passage to the other side for dormice (I am not certain which little creature was involved!).

Mrs D Coombes Herridge, Barry

Beware these prize potholes!

REJOICE! A new game has been invented, namely, 'plumb the depths with a Barry pothole'.

This is based upon my detailed survey of the older parts of Barry, Cadroxton, Coldbrook, etc; the newer ones such as the H2O front (the waterfront) new housing and roads on Barry Island are fine. They have new surfaces.

Like senior citizens, the roads and by-ways of the older districts – Market Street, High Street, Trinity Street – and yes, I declare an interest, Aberystwyth Crescent – are pock-marked.

Take as an example, the right-hand turn from Market Street, Barry into the 'Kensington' of Barry – High Street; at

the top of Market Street. Turn right and the surface of High Street is also turning into a central trench.

Why not organise the Barry schools, in the older parts – High Street, Cadroxton – to do a survey? A fine could be offered by the guilty party; is that the Vale of Glamorgan Council, the coalition Government, or the former Labour Government?

After all, potholes do take time to deepen and develop. Prize categories could be 1) the biggest, 2) the deepest, 3) the oldest or 4) the most dangerous.

All four, and you get to evict a chief executive with squatter's rights to his, or her, house!
Christopher Short, Barry

Deficit: Who owes what to whom?

PERHAPS **Alun Cairns** MP would like to tell us why his Government is giving £800 million to some consortium to update our broadband – perhaps it is the money they owe Wales?

I thought the country was nearly bankrupt? You can't believe anything this Government says.

As for borrowing, it borrowed £240 million in November, that must have been for Ireland?

So who are we borrowing all this money from – the Bank of England?

What is the Bank of England? We have the 'European Central Bank' who finance all 'Euro' countries – so is the Bank of England our

Central Bank? Maybe that's the reason we're not in the Euro as that would be the end of the Bank of England!

Does our Government really owe all this money they are telling us about – or did the banks who were in the red borrow from the Bank of England – and it is they who are paying all these interest charges?

That would leave the Government in a pretty good financial position. They've put up fuel at the pump, road tax is sky high, and VAT is set to rise – but that should affect the rich more than the man in the street.

Just think, a million pound yacht would fetch £200,000 VAT, but that would be company-owned, wouldn't it?
Bill Lang, Barry

WRITE IN!

We welcome your views, news and items of local interest.
email: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 03)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
27 Thur	11.51	8.5		
28 Fri	00.27	8.2	13.02	8.0
29 Sat	01.42	7.8	14.32	7.6
30 Sun	03.15	7.9	15.53	8.1
31 Mon	04.22	8.3	16.53	8.3
01 Tues	05.16	8.7	17.35	8.7
02 Wed	06.01	9.3	18.22	9.2
03 Thur	06.37	9.5	18.56	9.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

MAN TELLS OF DISGUST OVER WALKING HAZARDS

Dodging the dog mess on Barry Island pavements

A FAMILY man from Barry Island has told The GEM of his "disgust" at the amount of dog mess local people are having to dodge on local pavements and grassy areas.

Ian Bailey and his partner Clare have three young children, Keiron (4), Owen (3) and Tegan (1), and walk with them to the school and to the local green.

He said: "We take the children along to the school and are always dodging round dog mess on the way."

"Children of such a young age don't always look too carefully where they tread, and we've had occasions where

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

they've arrived at school or back home, with mess on their shoes. You are then left to clean it up.

"Most people use the blue bags, but there are some who don't. I think it has got worse recently."

"We need enforcement officers to come up and fine people so that it makes people think."

"I saw one man with a dog on Phyllis Street just let his dog do its business. I said: 'Hey, mate, children walk along this street.'"

The man retorted unpleasantly with a two word reply.

Ian said that it is understandable that most people don't want to challenge the anti-social acts of others, because they fear the sort of response he received, and he argues that's why the councils need to get tough.

In Llantwit Major, the problem has been so bad that the Vale Council has decided to hold a 'Dog Fouling Initiative' weekend to ram home to

owners that not picking up after their dog is an anti-social act.

Denise White, the Vale's senior enforcement officer, explained that complaints are treated confidentially by the council and that fines can be severe.

"The penalty for committing an offence under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 is a maximum fine of £1,000; alternatively, the opportunity to pay a fixed penalty may be offered in place of prosecution."

She went on: "The enforcement team and the dog warden team regularly issue fixed penalty notices of £75 to offenders in the Vale, and complaints may be made directly to the council on 01446 700111."

"The complaint will be treated confidentially and appropriate action taken against the offender. Free poop scoop bags are available from council offices and libraries around the Vale."



Pupils from Stanwell School and head of art Rhian Lewis with Vale AM Jane Hutt.

Holocaust memorial work wins praise

VALE schoolchildren have been praised for their artwork and presentations at the Holocaust

Memorial Event held recently in Art Central, Barry, hosted by the Mayor of the Vale.

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "The theme of the exhibition was 'Untold Stories' and the artwork displayed by pupils from schools across the Vale was insightful, moving and of a very high standard."

"The presentations by two pupils from

Ysgol Bro Morgannwg Catrin Williams and Bethan Heslop, based on their experience of visiting Auschwitz with school students from all over Wales, was

both powerful and thoughtful - showing the depth of their understanding of the Holocaust bringing history so meaningfully into their lives.

'Tobias is still Tobias'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Fiona told The GEM afterwards: "It was so emotional coming back to Ysgol Gwaun y Nant, because it is a place of so much happiness and I was able to meet the children who were so much a part of Tobias's life."

"I wanted to reassure them that despite the severe injuries, he is still the same vibrant, tenacious, wonderful little boy."

"I was glad to show them a picture of him smiling and being cheeky. I've reassured them that Tobias is still Tobias!"

Candidate sparks Colcot petition

RESIDENTS on the Colcot estate have started a petition to ask the Vale Council to grit Winston Road and Meggitt Road when there is icy weather.

The petition was launched by Claire Curtis, a candidate in the Dyfan Ward by-election.

She explained: "Even though Winston Road and Meggitt Road are bus routes, neither was gritted during the recent heavy snow. The Dyfan area of Barry stayed in the grip of ice and snow long after it had melted in most of the town."

"These roads were

treacherous in both the heavy frost we experienced in November and then the thick snow before Christmas."

"This left many people from the Colcot and surrounding area, including the elderly and those with young children, unable to get to shops, the chemist's or doctor's surgeries."

"Copies of the petition are available from me at 118 Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry, CF62 9JT and completed petitions can either be sent directly to me, or handed in at the Lifestyle Express store or Spar store on Winston road."

Horse sign stolen

FOLLOWING complaints about irresponsible horse riding on Dinas Powys Common, Dinas Powys Community Council erected additional signs, urging horse riders to only follow a specific route.

"These required considerable expenditure on the part of the Community Council. Each sign was fitted to metal posts concreted into the ground," said the clerk, Mr M J Goodfellow.

"On either the evening of December 29 or 30, one of the signs was removed (including posts). The theft has

been reported to the police."

"My council would appeal to anyone who witnessed this theft, or saw anything suspicious in the area at the time, to contact police, quoting crime reference number: 62100450923."

"In these difficult economic times, it is very frustrating to lose money spent on initiatives designed to respond directly to concerns raised by members of the public."

"Accordingly, any information passed to the police that might lead to a successful prosecution of the offender or offenders would be much appreciated," the clerk added.

For the latest news on the Sainsburys development, please turn to page 5.

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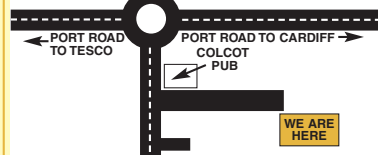
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3. Mixed Starters (Chicken Tikka, lamb tikka and sheek kebab)	£3.50
4. Chicken Pattie (Shredded pieces of chicken, potato, egg, fresh coriander and an assortment of spices, shaped into delicious patties then deep fried)	£2.50
5. Subzei Pattie (Spicy mixed vegetables covered in golden breadcrumbs and deep fried)	£2.50
6. Reshmi Chicken (Marinated chicken, served with mushrooms and green peppers)	£2.50
7. Spicy Platter (Hot and spicy chicken tikka, lamb tikka and sheek kebab, coated in a honey and soy sauce glaze)	£3.95
8. Chicken Pakora (Crispy sautéed spicy chicken)	£2.95
9. Chicken Chat (Chicken cooked in a sour sauce)	£2.50
10. Aloo Chat (Potato cooked in a sour sauce)	£2.25
11. Onion Bhajee	£2.25
12. Samosa (Spiced meat or vegetables in a crispy pastry)	£2.50
13. Fish Samosa (Spiced salmon in a crispy pastry)	£2.50
14. Sheek or Shamee Kebab	£2.75
15. Chicken or Lamb Tikka	£2.50
16. Prawn Cocktail (Succulent prawns served in a seafood sauce with salad and lemon)	£2.50
17. Prawn Puri (Prawns cooked in spices and served in a deep fried puri bread)	£2.95
18. King Prawn Puri (King prawns cooked in spices and served in a deep fried puri bread)	£3.95
19. King Prawn Butterfly (King prawns cooked in a spicy batter then deep fried)	£3.95
20. Garlic Mushrooms	£2.25
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21. Butter Chicken (Mild) (Off-the-bone tandoori chicken cooked with almonds, coconut and butter in a creamy sauce)	£5.50
22. Chicken or Lamb Pasanda (Mild)	£5.50
23. Chicken or Lamb Tikka Masala	£5.50
24. Mixed Tikka Masala (Chicken tikka, lamb tikka and sheek kebab, cooked in a special sauce of cream, yoghurt, herbs and spices)	£6.95
25. Tandoori King Prawn Masala	£8.95
26. Chicken or Lamb Korahi (Medium) (Chicken or lamb marinated in garlic, ginger and coriander, cooked in a richly spiced sauce with green peppers, tomatoes and onions)	£5.50
27. Jalfrezi Chicken or Lamb (Hot)	£5.25
28. King Prawn Korahi (King prawn seasoned with a touch of garlic, ginger and coriander, cooked in a richly spiced sauce with green peppers, tomatoes and onions)	£8.95

SPECIALITIES OF THE HOUSE	
29. Aloo Chicken (Hot or Medium) (Off-the-bone chicken with spicy diced potato cooked in a rich sauce)	£6.15
30. Chicken or Lamb Lahore (Hot or Medium) (Tender pieces of chicken or lamb tikka grilled over charcoal, cooked in a tandoori sauce with chopped onions, green peppers with a rich sauce)	£6.25
31. Chicken Pepali (Hot or Medium) (Cooked with green peppers, onion, tomatoes and fresh mint)	£6.25
32. Captain Pathila (Hot or Medium) (Tender strips of chicken or lamb, prepared using fresh herbs and spices including coriander, mint, garlic and yoghurt in a rich tangy sauce and this really is an exotic flavoured dish)	£6.25
33. Lime Chilli Goza (Hot) (Diced chicken or lamb cooked with home-made chilli pickles)	£6.15
34. Jerra Chicken (Hot or Medium) (Highly aromatic dish cooked using roast cumin seeds)	£6.15
35. South Indian Mustard (Hot) (Barbequed pieces of chicken cooked with fresh garlic, mustard, chilli sauce and served with crisp red chilies)	£6.25
36. Chicken or Lamb Basanthi (Hot) (Slightly hot sauce, cooked with onions, green peppers and fresh green chillies)	£6.25
37. Mango Chicken (Mild) (Marinated chicken cooked in a mild sauce with mango)	£6.15
38. Garlic Chicken (Hot) (A delicious chicken dish served with a combination of fresh spice, lemon juice, garlic and a touch of green chillies)	£6.25
39. Chicken Moghli Massala (Medium) (Tandoori strips of chicken, cooked with spicy minced lamb with a touch of masala sauce)	£6.15
40. King Prawn Nawabi (Hot or Medium) (King prawns roasted in a clay oven, then cooked in a thick spicy sauce, served with stir-fried aubergines, garnished with fresh coriander and saffron onion)	£8.95
41. Chicken Chilli Masala (Hot) (Prepared with exotic fresh hot spices and green chillies)	£6.25
42. Shatkora (hot) (Spicy chicken or lamb flavoured dish, cooked with shatkora, a fruit from the north eastern region of Bangladesh, giving this dish a true taste of Bangladesh cuisine)	£6.25
43. Rajastani Chicken (A sweet and sour dish of chicken strips, cooked with onions, peppers and green chillies in a rich sauce)	£6.50
BALTI DISHES	
44. House Special Balti (Chicken, lamb, potato, spinach in a thick spicy sauce)	£6.25
45. Chicken or Lamb Tikka Spinach Balti	£5.95
46. Chicken or Lamb Tikka Balti	£5.75
47. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Balti	£5.50
48. Chicken or Lamb Spinach/Mushroom Balti	£5.75
49. Vegetable balti	£5.10
50. King Prawn Spinach Balti	£8.95
51. King Prawn Balti	£8.50
TANDOORI DISHES	
52. Tandoori King Prawn	£8.95
53. Chicken Nawabi	£6.95
54. Tandoori Mixed Grill (Quarter tandoori chicken, chicken tikka, lamb tikka, sheek kebab and nan bread served with curry sauce)	£8.95
55. Chicken or lamb Shashlik	£6.95
56. Half Tandoori Chicken	£6.95
57. Chicken or Lamb Tikka	£5.50

TRADITIONAL DISHES	
King Prawn available at £3.50 extra, Tikka Chicken or Lamb at £1.00 extra and vegetables at £1.00 less.	
58. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Curry (Medium, madras or vindaloo)	£4.95
59. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Bhuna	£5.10
60. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Rogan	£5.10
61. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Pathia	£5.10
62. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Dhanask	£5.10
63. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Duplaza	£5.10
64. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Kurma	£5.10
BIRYANI DISHES	
65. House Special Biryani (A mixture of chicken tikka, lamb tikka, minced lamb, peas and topped with a spicy omelette)	£6.50
66. Chicken or Lamb Tikka Biryani	£5.75
67. Chicken, Lamb or Prawn Biryani	£5.50
68. King Prawn Biryani	£8.50
69. Vegetable Biryani	£5.10
70. Mushroom and Egg Biryani	£5.10
SIDE DISHES	
All medium hot unless otherwise stated.	
71. Sag Mirch (Green peppers with spinach)	£2.50
72. Motor Ponir (Peas & home-made cottage cheese)	£2.50
73. Sag Ponir (Spinach & home-made cottage cheese)	£2.50
74. Mushroom Bhajee	£2.25
75. Chana Masala (Chick Peas)	£2.25
76. Aubergine Bhajee	£2.25
77. Aloo Gobi (Potatoes & Cauliflower)	£2.50
78. Bombay Aloo	£2.25
79. Cauliflower Bhajee	£2.25
80. Sag Aloo (Spinach & Potatoes)	£2.25
81. Sag Bhajee (Spinach)	£2.25
82. Aloo Bhindi Bhajee (Potatoes & Okra)	£2.50
83. Bhindi Bhajee	£2.25
84. Tarka Dhal (Lentil in fried garlic)	£2.25
RICE & BREAD	
85. Boiled Rice	£1.75
86. Pilau Rice	£1.95
87. Keema Rice	£2.25
88. Mushroom Rice	£2.25
89. Special Rice	£2.25
90. Fried Rice	£2.25
91. Egg Fried Rice	£2.25
92. Garlic Fried Rice	£2.25
93. Lemon Rice	£2.25
94. Plain Nan	£1.75
95. Keema Nan	£1.95
96. Peshwari Nan	£1.95
97. Special Nan (Chicken tikka)	£2.25
98. Kilcha Nan (Vegetables)	£1.95
99. Garlic Nan	£1.95
100. Chilli Garlic Nan	£1.95
101. Chilli Keema Nan	£1.95
102. Cheese Nan	£2.25
103. Chips	£1.50
104. Paratha	£1.95
105. Chapati	£1.50
106. Stuffed Paratha	£2.25
107. Tandoori Roti	£1.95
108. Pappadam	£0.60
109. Spicy Pappadam	£0.60
110. Chutney Tray	£1.00
111. Pickles	£0.40
112. Red Sauce	£0.40
113. Chips & Curry Sauce	£2.95
114. Chips & Korma/Masala Sauce	£3.50



ADDICT MUM (42) JAILED ON DRUGS SUPPLY CHARGE

AN amphetamine Mother of two, to supply. She was said addict has been Michelle Margus (42) of to have 17 previous con- jailed for a year at Barry, admitted being victions for drug-related Cardiff Crown concerned in the supply offences, most involving Court for dealing in of amphetamine, and amphetamine, but some the drug. possessing it with intent involving heroin and

18-year-old man stole from "frightened" youths

AN 18-year-old man who "threw his weight about" and robbed two schoolboys in Barry has been sent to a young offender institution for a year at Cardiff Crown Court.

Leon Lloyd-Tyrell of Barry took a watch from one of the youths and a bicycle from the other after frightening them.

He pleaded guilty to two charges of robbery and was told by judge Rhys Rowlands: "For a man of 18, you have an unenviable record. While I accept only minimum force was used, these offences are particularly serious."

"You picked on much younger boys and threw your weight about, and the second robbery occurred when you were on bail for the first. "Both boys were particularly vulnerable. Your mother is standing by you, and that must give you hope for the future."

Prosecutor Jonathan Bushell said that about 10.45pm on August 20, a 14-year-old youth was walking along the main street in Barry when he became aware of the defendant behind him. Lloyd-Tyrell told him: "I like your watch, give me your watch."

The boy refused, and he said he believed that Lloyd-Tyrell had said he'd murder him.

Lloyd-Tyrell then grabbed him by the throat and the youth said he didn't

want any trouble and handed over the watch.

He was later spotted by the police in a distressed state and informed that he had been robbed.

CCTV located Lloyd-Tyrell in Ramsey Street. He was arrested wearing the watch. He said he had been drinking and claimed that the youth voluntarily gave him the watch.

While on bail on September 24, at about 8.45pm, another 14-year-old youth was cycling in Barry when he stopped to check the time on his mobile phone.

Lloyd-Tyrell walked up to him and shouted: "Get off your bike now. Give me the bike now," and pulled the rider off. Lloyd-Tyrell then rode off on it.

Two days later, the victim's aunt saw the cycle being ridden in Barry by another person and it was handed to her.

Lloyd-Tyrell was arrested on October 17 and admitted committing the robbery after a heavy drinking session. He was said to have previous convictions for causing actual bodily harm, causing criminal damage and theft.

Solicitor David Rees said: "These were mean-spirited offences, but no weapon was used. Minimal force was used, and he recognises his actions greatly scared the youths. Binge drinking has been a problem, but there is some remorse."

ecstasy. Judge Rhys Rowlands told her: "Be under no misapprehension, these are very serious offences involving supplying amphetamine over a period of 11 months."

"The aggravating feature is that these were not one-off offences. You have a bad record of offending and in the past, the courts have bent over backwards not to send you to prison but to try and help you."

"This was an on-going commercial enterprise. You knew the risks, and you were prepared to take them and now you have to face the consequences."

Prosecutor Jonathan Bushell said that on August 9, the police executed a search warrant at Margus's home.

She was sitting on a sofa and said: "It's there" pointing to her handbag, inside which was a quantity of amphetamine.

The police also found a set of digital scales and a mobile phone, and on a kitchen worktop was more amphetamine.

The total value of all the drugs that were found was up to £205.

The mobile phone was analysed and contained text messages from people wanting to purchase drugs.

**CARDIFF
CROWN
COURT
ROUND-UP
with AJ
SICLUNA**

Also found, was £675 in cash, but Margus said that was part of a loan she had taken out to buy birthday presents.

Mr Bushell said she told the police she used about one ounce of amphetamine a day and sold some of it. "But not on a big scale."

Her barrister, Ruth Smith, said: "Her life has been blighted by the use of amphetamines. She is an addict, and her late mother was an addict who introduced her to it."

"The offences are at the lower end of the scale, and she supplied only close friends."

She said Margus did not sell the drug on the street and was full and frank with the police when they went to her home, and after being arrested.

"She is of limited means, and still has difficulty with amphetamine. She does not want to continue using it."

"She had had a very difficult year with the death of her mother and a close friend."

"Amphetamine was her emotional crutch. She is frightened at the prospect of custody, which would mean the loss of her accommodation."

Jury fails to reach verdict in assault case

A JURY at Cardiff Crown Court failed to reach a verdict in a case in which two men were accused of carrying out an attack in Barry.

Christopher Chick (25) of Barry, and Daniel Powell (23) formerly of Barry, had pleaded not guilty to causing Luke Webber actual bodily harm on March 23.

After failing to reach a verdict, the jury was discharged and the case was adjourned until next week for a decision to be taken concerning a retrial.

Prosecutor David Thomas claimed that the two assaulted Mr Webber at his front door. He was repeatedly punched and suffered bruising to his face and forehead.

Mr Thomas said Mr Webber had sold a pram to Mr Chick's family for £30.

Mr Webber saw Chick's wife in the town and there was an argument.

It was claimed that when Chick learned of this, he and Powell went to Mr Webber's flat and carried out an unprovoked assault.

Both admitted being

there, and told the police Mr Webber had been the aggressor.

Mr Webber told the jury that he saw Chick's wife in Barry and when she gave him a "stinking look" he called her a fat bitch and said he was owed money.

Later, said Mr Webber, the two went to his home and attacked him.

He said he was punched in the eyes by Chick and Powell also grabbed him.

Powell told the jury he acted in self defence and also broke up a fight involving Chick and Mr Webber.

Chick said Mr Webber opened the door and immediately struck him.

He said Powell had attempted to break up the fighting.

Penarth car damage

Penarth police are calling for information on a series of incidents involving criminal damage to a number of parked cars overnight on Friday, January 14.

Five vehicles were damaged, with rear windcreens smashed and damage caused to the rear wiper arm in Mountjoy Avenue, Mountjoy Close, Victoria Road and St David's Crescent.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Steve Gunney at Penarth police station on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Fundraisers dive into action... School pals plan to swim Lengths of Life for charity

RIGHT:

Barry Comprehensive School pupils Sean Mayor (on the right) and Mitchell Pierce (on the left) will be swimming "Lengths for Life".

A BARRY comprehensive pupil who last year raised vital funds for the Ty Hafan children's hospice, is going into action for charity again.

Sean Mayor and schoolmate Mitchell Pierce have organised some of their friends to take part in this month's sponsored swimming event 'Lengths for Life'.

They will be sponsored to swim lengths at the Barry Leisure Centre pool to raise money for the new Breast Centre for Cardiff and the Vale, at Llandough Hospital.

Sean also led a group last year to raise money for Ty Hafan by organising a cake stall in the school and he already has "several plans" for later this year to help support local charities.



Penarth pub faces new licence rules

A PENARTH pub has had a number of conditions placed on it after a council committee reviewed its licence.

Earlier this month, the Council's Licensing Committee reviewed the premises licence held by the Railway Hotel, Penarth.

The review followed previous incidents of violence at the premises and interim steps put in place by the committee on December 17 2010, pending a full review hearing.

A Vale Council spokeswoman said:

"Following the hearing, the committee resolved to amend the premises licence by attaching additional conditions. The conditions attached are as follows:

"1/ Polycarbonate or toughened glassware (excluding bottles) must be used at all times.

"2/ Staff will ensure the regular collection of all used and discarded drinking vessels from customer areas.

"3/ Suitably qualified door staff will be employed at the premises from 9pm should the premises operate beyond midnight, with consideration being given to increasing their numbers as required, so as to ensure safe and effective control during major sporting events, Bank Holiday weekends,

"Images shall be produced on the request of the Police as soon as practicable, therefore adequate training will be provided to the management team to comply with the provision.

There will be storage facilities for images to be kept for at least 31 days.

"5/ Children shall not be allowed into or remain on the premises after 9.30pm.

"6/ The external beer garden must be vacated by all customers by no later than 15 minutes after the cessation of alcohol sales."

She added that the "terminal hour" for trading on some bank holiday dates has been reduced.

A curious method of dress? Turn to page 32 to find out why these two, and many others, were dressed to impress!

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BARRY TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

GRANTS FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Applications are invited from local voluntary and not for-profit organisations seeking financial assistance in 2011/12. Forms are available from Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA. Telephone: (01446) 738663 Fax (01446 704929).

Your constitution and latest audited accounts must accompany the application. New organisations must submit a business plan/budget in place of audited accounts. All applications complying with these criteria will be considered. The submission of an application does not guarantee that a grant will be awarded.

The Council is unable to consider applications from or on behalf of National Organisations, unless they can demonstrate that their services benefit a significant proportion of the local community.

Applications should be returned to the address given below by or before Tuesday 1st March 2011.

Mr D B Wolfe
Executive Officer
Council Offices
7 Gladstone Road
Barry
CF62 8NA

CAMPAIGNERS KEEP UP THE PRESSURE ON SAINSBURY'S PLANS

THE councillor leading the opposition to a Sainsbury's Local store in Park Crescent says she believes Vale councillors will reject the idea, but fears that an appeal to the Welsh Assembly might be successful.

A decision on whether to grant permission for the store to go ahead could take place as early as next week, but Coun Janice Charles thinks it may go on to a planning committee meeting in March.

"I think Sainsbury's feel confident that with their wealth and power, the Vale Council can't stop them, but I have every belief that councillors will uphold what is right and support the objections made.

"I think it will be refused by the Vale and go to the Welsh Assembly who might look differently at it.

"Not one person in Barry would agree that it

is in the right position with the volume of traffic along Park Crescent."

More than 4,000 residents and business owners signed a petition against the store being located in the old bike and tool shop opposite Romilly Junior School.

Coun Charles and fellow Iltyd councillor, Emlyn Williams, were also alerted last week by concerned residents that work was going on at the proposed site.

Coun Williams explained: "There were workmen on site along with machinery and we've had calls from people wondering what is going on."

He added that it was odd that Sainsbury's had applied for an alcohol licence before getting full planning for the branch.

Coun Charles posed the question: "It seems like putting the cart before the horse - why is it so important for Sainsbury's to know that they can sell alcohol prior to opening a shop?"

The Vale Assembly

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

member, Jane Hutt, has held a meeting at the Senedd involving Sainsbury's chiefs and a Park Crescent business which would be affected if the supermarket giant moves in.

The meeting was arranged after the AM had been in touch with Sainsbury's chief executive Justin King, and involved his head of property, Stephen Boyce, the regional acquisition manager, Tom Trenchard, and concerned local business owners Mr Patel and his daughter Roshni Patel.

IMPACT

Ms Hutt said: "This meeting provided us with the opportunity to inform top managers from Sainsbury's of the widespread opposition to their proposal to locate a store in Park Crescent.

"We told them of the strength of feeling from local people about their support for the existing businesses in Park Crescent, with food stores, a butcher, baker,

florist, greengrocer, newsagents and Post Office providing a unique business community for local people.

"We also stressed the adverse impact of the location of a store open from 7am - 11pm opposite Romilly Primary School, alongside one of the busiest roundabouts and thoroughfares in Barry.

"With the planning committee considering these issues in due course, the opportunity to make a case on traffic impact grounds is strong."

The GEM put the concerns of local councillors and the Assembly Member to Sainsbury's.

A spokeswoman for the company explained: "As part of our activity to bring forward our plans for the new store we submitted alcohol and planning applications at broadly the same time.

"We need both in order to be able to operate the store.

"A decision was granted on the alcohol application on January 7. However, the planning application is not due to be heard until March so it's simply how the timings for committees have worked out."

The spokeswoman revealed that people had been on site to assess what would need to be done in the future.

"We have not started construction work on the store.

"We have carried out some investigative surveys to establish the level of work that will need to be done."

BENEFIT

The spokeswoman also pointed out: "We also met with Jane Hutt AM and some of her constituents last week to discuss some of the issues in more detail to ensure our store meets the needs of the local community.

"We believe that this part of the town will benefit from a new convenience store, as people living locally, especially those without a car, currently have a limited choice of where they can shop.



Coun Janice Charles and Coun Emlyn Williams with Mrs Kokila Patel who fears for the future of her nearby business if the Sainsbury's venture goes ahead.

CCTV arrests

CCTV working under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership assisted with 11 arrests in the week ending January 23.

It contacted police on 39 occasions, with one arrest for alleged assault at Vere Street, Barry. An additional arrest was made at Holton Road for breach of bail.

Two arrests were made concerning theft at Dunlin Court, while three arrests were made at Princes Street involving public order.

Finally, four arrests were made for alleged affray; two at Broad Street, Barry and two at Windsor Road, Penarth.

Iolo Park is set for a £200,000 facelift!



RIGHT: Sam Uphill and Michelle Sullivan are keen to hear the views of local residents on the new plans for Iolo Park (above).

A park that was opened in Barry by Prince Charles in the 1970s, but has now fallen into disrepair is to get a £200,000 facelift.

Iolo Park on Treharne Road was awarded funding from the Barry Regeneration Area Board.

First Development worker, Michelle Sullivan, told The GEM: "The aim of the development project is to create an environment where members of the local community can enjoy the new facilities, improving health and wellbeing through the improved leisure and play opportunities."

On Friday afternoon, January

by TIM CHAPMAN

21, Michelle and fellow community worker Sam Uphill were canvassing the opinions of local people on what was planned.

Michelle explained: "There will be a young children's area, a basketball court, a multi-court, a seating area, touch pad floodlights, an area set aside for juniors and toddlers, climbing frames, a youth pod and a graffiti wall project

"Both Gibbonsdown and Court Communities First and the Vale Council want to hear the views of local residents in relation to the redevelopment of the site.

"We've got more consultation events at Iolo Park on Thursday,

January 27 from 3pm; Saturday, February 5 from 12 noon; and Monday, February 21 from 12 noon."

Sam added: "The park will be catering for all age groups.

"Originally, it was opened in the 1970s by Prince Charles."

It is hoped that work will go ahead in the spring and that the facilities may be ready at some stage in the summer.

The consultation document will be available for resident feedback on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website at: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/our_council/achieving_our_vision/consultation/current_consultations/iolo_park_regeneration.aspx.

The Dining Room

@ **Finnegans**

SUNDAY CARVERY SERVED IN THE DINING ROOM

12.00 noon - 4.00 pm

Choice of hand carved meats and self service - fresh seasonal vegetables, roast potatoes, Yorkshires, etc... **Only £5.99**

Valentines Set Menu

available Saturday, 12th February and Monday, 14th February

FIRST CHOICE:

Fresh Tomato and Basil Soup served with today's freshly made bread. Home-made Chicken liver & Cognac Pate served with melba toasts and sweet onion marmalade.

Grilled Peppered Mackerel Fillets raised on a dressed, orange and leaf salad. Steamed Mussels in chilli, tomato and coriander broth.

MAIN COURSE:

Pan-roasted Chicken Breast wrapped in parma ham with a light mustard glaze, served with butter, braised cabbage, mustard mash and red wine jus.

Pork Belly Braised in Cider served with buttered curly kale, champ mash and cranberry jus.

Mussels and King Prawn Linguine in Thai chilli cream sauce and garlic Chiabatta.

Potato, Taleggio and Spinach Tart (v) served with dressed salad and today's bread.

Pan Fried Fillet of Sea Bass served on a bed of braised fennel, crushed new potatoes and a basil lemon butter sauce

DESSERTS:

Chef's Profiteroles served with rich chocolate sauce.

Glazed Passion Fruit Tart served with raspberry coulis.

Orange and Cointreau Creme Brulee

Shortbread Hearts filled with Kirsch flavoured cream, served with fresh strawberries.

1-8 STATION APPROACH ROAD, BARRY ISLAND. CF62 5TH

Telephone: 01446 749355

Launching Thursday, 3rd February

New Gastro Pub Food Menu with Large Seafood Selection.

Meals served Monday to Saturday 12 midday to 9.30pm (last orders)

Only £17.95 per person



STATE OF THE ART £4M MEDICAL CENTRE OPENS AT WATERFRONT



ABOVE: Gwenda Thomas AM with Vale AM Jane Huft and Nigel Coulter of Opco.

THE new £4million West Quay Medical Centre at Barry Waterfront was officially opened on Wednesday, January 19.

The state-of-the-art 22,000 square foot, two-storey medical centre at Hood Road in the heart of Barry's Innovation Quarter, was built by the specialist south Wales construction company Opco.

The ultra modern centre, which serves 12,500 patients, provides cutting-edge facilities for 10 GPs and five nurses, is equipped with three treatment rooms, a proposed pharmacy and administration space. The centre employs a total of 34 people.

It was officially opened by the Deputy Minister for Social Services, Gwenda

Thomas, and replaces the three converted shops on High Street, previously used by the burgeoning medical practice.

West Quay Medical Centre business manager, Colin Blackwell, commented:

"We're absolutely delighted that Gwenda Thomas was able to come along to officially open our fantastic new centre.

"West Quay is already proving to be perfect, both for our existing and new patients, and also those

many professionals of varied disciplines that we have working here at the centre."

The project was delivered by specialist medical centre developers and investors Matrix Medical.

Alistair Blacklaws, of Matrix Medical, said that they were "very encouraged" by the forward thinking nature and proactivity of the GPs, Cardiff and Vale University Health Boards (UHB), the Vale Council and the Welsh Assembly Government.



Dr Keith Holgate (right) and Nigel Coulter.



ABOVE: The West Quay practice business manager, Colin Blackwell (left) with members of the project team.



Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc news

Winners weigh up their success in recycling campaign



Ysgol St Baruc pupils with their Christmas cards.

Re-cycling Christmas greetings!

YSGOL Gymraeg Sant Baruc has had a very busy month collecting and re-cycling Christmas cards.

Every class competed against each other to see who could collect the most cards.

On Friday, January 14, every bag was weighed to find out who had collected the most.

The winning class was Class 2 and their bag weighed 175kg, but congratulations to every class for their work!

Ailgylchu cardiau Nadolig

BU Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc yn brysuro iawn y mis yma yn casglu ac ailgylchu cardiau Nadolig.

Cystadlodd pob dosbarth yn erbyn ei gilydd i weld pwy fyddai'n medru casglu'r mwyaf o gardiau. Ar ddydd Gwener y 14eg o Ionawr pwyswyd pob bag i ddarganfod pwy oedd wedi casglu'r mwyaf.

Y dosbarth buddugol oedd Dosbarth 2 ac roedd ei bag yn pwysu 175kg ond llongyfarchiadau i bob dosbarth am ei gwaith!

Health and safety now on the curriculum for local college students!

BARRY College held a special 'Health Week' recently, when local organisations gathered at the college's Colcot Road site for a health fayre.

Members of the RNID's Noise Squad attended as part of its 'Don't Lose the Music' awareness-raising campaign.

As part of the campaign, students were asked to plug their MP3 players into a specially-designed head that measures sound pressure, lighting up green, red or amber according to the danger level of the volume.

Also present were the college childcare team and food co-op with healthy eating advice, learning zone, sport and fitness department giving health checks, the c-card scheme, and health and safety, offering advice on how to avoid slips and trips with an guest stilt-walker.

The students from hair and beauty offered free hand and upper back massage and the



PICTURED: Engineering student Joshua Lawler with the RNID 'sound head'.

Terrence Higgins Trust, taken on a lot of advice." Fire Service and South Plumbing learner Wales Police also attended. Rajdeep Singh added: "It's given me lots of information I can use at home and at college."

Holistic therapy student Chris Batey said: "The bike has been and really informative. my favourite - watching my tutor struggle on it."

I've picked up plenty of healthy living tips and

DANCE MAT TASTERS

FREE 'dance mat' taster sessions for children are being held at Barry Leisure Centre this Saturday, January 29.

Youngsters aged six upwards will be invited to try out the new interactive dance mats for free half-hour sessions at either 12pm-12.30pm or 12.30pm-1pm, with children aged 10 or more at 1pm-1.30pm and 1.30pm-2pm. Advance booking is recommended to secure a child's place.

Head pulls out of 'Yes Campaign'

THE headteacher of Barry Island Primary School will take no further part in the 'Yes Campaign', which seeks greater law-making powers for Wales, after a UKIP candidate complained of children being used as 'props' at a political event.

Two weeks ago, Kevin Mahoney, who stood for UKIP in last year's general election, said he had been amazed to see children from the Island's primary school sitting beside computers with a big 'Yes' displayed on them at a HUB event prior to Christmas.

Roger Lewis, the WRU chief executive, was being announced as chairman of the 'Yes' campaign, and a campaign website was launched. The event was shown on TV.

Mr Mahoney said Janet Hayward, the headteacher, and Lee Waters, the chairman of governors, a member of the 'Yes for Wales' steering committee, should not have allowed youngsters to attend the event.

An internal investigation has been carried out by Mr David Vining, the vice-chairman of the governors, who informed Mr Mahoney of his findings.

The investigation said that the four pupils had attended the launch of the 'Yes' campaign website because the school had been named UK ICT 'school of the year'.

Mr Vining said that: "Before attending the event, parental consent was obtained for all of the children."

He went on to say that the school had informed the director of education that it would be taking part in the event and no objections were received from the LEA or parents of the children.

Mr Vining pointed out that Lee Waters had met with the children prior to the event "to explore the arguments both for and against to ensure the children understood the context of the event and the purpose of the website".

With regard to Janet Hayward, Mr Vining,

comments: "As to the involvement of the headteacher, she had personally offered her support to the 'Yes' campaign as she believes in the principle of devolution."

"She did not believe it had political implications, as it was endorsed by all the political parties that comprise the Welsh Assembly Government."

"On reflection and looking at it in a broader political context, the headteacher accepts that school involvement in this event could have been misconstrued."

"She has no personal political aspirations and regrets that this has now become a political issue and she will have no further involvement in the campaign. Her involvement amounted to about 90 minutes of school time, which she has since made up."

Mr Mahoney said he believed that what had happened contravened the Education Act of 1996, which forbids "the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject to any pupil" under the age of 12.

Mr Mahoney said he could not understand why Lee Waters had met with the children: "Since when have school governors been taking classes?"

"The suggestion that the leading light on the 'Yes' campaign's steering committee is presenting a fair and balanced view of both sides of this issue is almost too laughable to comment on."

Mr Mahoney said he had been granted a meeting with the chief executive of the Vale Council and the director of education, adding he would be lodging a complaint with the Local Authority ombudsman.

A Vale Council spokeswoman stated: "This is a matter for the school's governing body. In accordance with Welsh Assembly Government procedure, the complaint has been answered within the school complaint procedures."

"If the complainant remains concerned about any aspect of the response, the matter will be referred to the governing body's complaints committee."

TIM CHAPMAN

Vale's 'Thriller Queen' set to entertain for years to come

IN 12 short months, a novelist from the Vale has been hailed as one of the world's leading crime writers.

A year ago, Belinda Bauer's first novel, *Blacklands*, was greeted with acclaim – and two weeks ago, a second, *Darkside*, was received with similar excitement.

The Sunday Times enthused: "She's a thriller queen", adding that she is "the woman most likely to lead the fight back against the Scandinavian crime-wave".

Although she is writing in the crime genre, Belinda told The GEM that her debut novel was inspired more by the thought of how an ordinary family copes with an extraordinary crime, than the crime itself.

"I saw a television interview with the mother of Keith Bennett, the victim of the moors murders, who wanted Ian Brady to tell her where her son's body was buried."

"I began to wonder what it would be like to be a member of her family and how it had affected them."

Blacklands told the story of 12-year-old Steven Lamb who believes his uncle was a victim of the child murderer Arnold Avery 18 years earlier. He thinks that if his uncle's body can be located on its presumed resting place, Exmoor, it might heal his family's damaged relationships, so he starts communicating in code with the jailed killer.

Critics praised the evocation of childhood fears and the atmospheric scenes of Exmoor, but Belinda explained that neither had posed her a problem.

"I have a very clear memory of my own life at the age of 12 which I loved, so it was easy to revisit it for the character of Steven."

"I was able to write about Exmoor from memory because I knew the area from many years before – my mother still lives not far away, so I have been back there since."

Belinda added that while people had been gripped by the character of the serial killer Arnold Avery, a man who glories in his superiority over other people, some readers had been disturbed by him.

The tale of innocence in a psychological war with unrepentant evil won the Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger Award for 2010 and was translated into more than 20 languages worldwide.

Fans of the book will be delighted to hear that it looks likely to be made into a film.

Now Belinda, a former Cardiff journalist and screen-writer, has released her second novel, which has connections to the first, but a new cast of characters.

Belinda explained: "*Darkside* is set in the same village as *Blacklands* but four years later. It is a completely new, stand alone story."

"Jonas Holly is a village policeman living in a tight knit community, but a man who has a lot on his plate."

"He has to care for his sick wife Lucy who has MS, and then he has to deal with a local murder."

"A detective from

Taunton, DCI Marvel, becomes Holly's nemesis, blaming him for not catching the killer, and takes over the investigation."

The pressure then mounts on Holly as the killer begins to taunt him and the body count mounts.

At times during *Darkside*, Belinda suffered from writer's block, but compensated for that by putting in marathon 15-hour days when the words began to flow.

"*Darkside* is a more complex plot and took forever to work out – so I hope that is the case for the readers too!"

Belinda's third book is almost complete and a fourth is already brewing in her fertile mind, so her growing army of loyal readers is set to be entertained for years to come.

Darkside was published in hardback on January 6 and has already gone into a second print run.

TIM CHAPMAN



ABOVE
Belinda Bauer.



ABOVE: *Darkside* was released on January 6.

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LOCAL DOG BREEDER JOINS AN ASSEMBLY PROTEST

RIGHT: The protesters outside The Senedd.
(Photograph by Amelia Kinsey of Sturtmoor Photography).

A BRIDGEND-BASED dog breeder has joined a protest group that is lobbying the Assembly over new legislation designed to regulate puppy farms.

The group claims that the new rules will catch not just commer-

cial businesses but also "hobby breeders" – dog lovers who breed their own dogs to show them in competition, and more than 800 have already signed a petition.

Diane Bains, who runs 'Purfection' was a commercial dog breeder herself, and she feels

that the legislation is badly drafted.

She told The GEM: "Anyone who has three or more breeding bitches, will have to apply for a licence, and that definition will catch many hobby breeders who are not running a puppy farm. "What is more, the Assembly

definition of a breeding bitch is any such dog over six months old – while the Kennel Club definition is between one year and eight years old."

A spokesman for the campaign, Colin Richardson, also from Bridgend, said that policing the new licence would be beyond

the existing enforcement officers.

He said: "The legislation is flawed and will vastly increase their workload."

"We agree that commercial puppy farms need to be regulated, but this will make it harder for inspectors to focus on the ones that may be breaking the

rules."

The GEM asked if the cost of licences was a factor in the protest, and Mr Richardson said it was not.

He estimated the likely cost was in the region of £500



AFTER 900 JOBS ARE PHASED OUT IN THE VALE...

'Different product' is the Bosch defence as it plans new plant near Worcester

THE Vale's Assembly Member is to contact Bosch to ask it about its "decision-making process" after it emerged it may get cash support to create 1,000 jobs near Worcester.

The irony for workers in south Wales is that the multi-national is switching its alternator production from its Vale plant to Hungary in a bid to save costs, which has meant the phased loss of 900 jobs.

Now, a Local Enterprise Partnership in Worcester is applying to the UK government for £46 million to help in a Bosch initiative and five other projects.

Jane Hutt AM said the latest turn of events would dismay the company's local employees.

"This news will come as a real body blow to those workers who have lost their jobs in the south Wales plant."

"The Assembly's ReAct scheme has

helped many people affected by the closure to find new work, but there are still many people who don't have jobs to go to, and there will be a big impact on the local economy. These are high-skilled jobs we are losing that are very difficult to replace."

"I recognise that Bosch is a multi-national firm operating in many different sectors, but someone at the top must be looking at the bigger picture."

A former Bosch employee, Colin Tucker, who lost his job last

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

"Cutting jobs in one part of the country and selling off a valuable site, only to be applying for a Government grant to set up a new site, in a more prosperous area, just seems totally wrong."

"I will be contacting the company to ask about their decision-making process."

A former Bosch employee, Colin Tucker, who lost his job last

April, said it was disappointing to hear about the development near Worcester "which is not that far away".

He said: "Why couldn't they bring the work to south Wales where there already is a workforce and hand over from one product to another."

"It is the same line that we heard before – the products were different and there was nothing available for us."

Since leaving Bosch, Mr Tucker has been helped by ReAct funding which enabled him to retrain as a forklift truck driver and stay in employment.

He said: "I have had to take a big cut in wages, but I think a lot of people may have to because of the financial crisis we are in."

Tory regional AM Andrew RT Davies said: "I am personally very disappointed, following the apparent decision to invest in a major new development in England, that the Bosch site at Miskin was not considered viable for reconfiguration to house the new development."

A Bosch spokeswoman told The GEM that the plant in the Vale and the one in Worcester "operate within very different market sectors".

She said: "Worcester, Bosch Group is a market leader in the development and manufacture of commercial and domestic heating products, while the Cardiff plant produces alternators for automotive market."

"The Cardiff closure is planned for mid 2011 and any new business opportunities for the site were carefully considered during the evaluation phase."

"An 'outline planning' application has been made by Bosch Thermotechnology – trading as Worcester, Bosch Group – with the support of Worcester LEP to relocate its current location to a site

near to the M5 motorway at Worcester."

"Wychavon District Council has approved the outline planning application for the potential new site."

"Final approvals have not been made and so timescales have not been set, but it is unlikely that the new site will be completed until at least 2015."

"As a local company based in Worcester for almost 50 years, and with a dedicated and skilled work force, Bosch Thermotechnology remains committed to the long-term development of the company within Worcester."

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PACT meetings
DYFAN PACT, Barry Comprehensive School, Port Road, Barry, January 31 at 6pm.
CASTLELAND PACT, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, January 31 at 7pm.
BARUC PACT, Barry Island Community Centre, Friars Road, Barry Island, January 31 at 7.15pm.
ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry, February 1 at 7pm.
BUTTRILLS PACT, Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, February 14 at 6.30pm.
ST BRIDES MAJOR PACT, St Brides Church Hall, February 7, 6pm.
St Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council meeting, St Nicholas Church Hall, February 7 at 7.30pm.
SULLY SURGERY, South Road, outside the Onestop shop, January 27 between 2pm and 4pm.
ST AUGUSTINE'S PACT, February 3 in the back room of the Windsor Public House at 7pm.
DINAS POWYS PACT, February 7 in the Old Library on Britway Road, at 7pm.
CORNERSWELL PACT, February 10, Penarth Leisure Centre at 7pm.

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Concern over attack on an eight-year-old child

A Vale child aged eight was scratched with broken glass and had a plastic bag put over his head when he was attacked by two 11-year-olds, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

One of them pleaded guilty to a charge of causing actual bodily harm and was made subject to a three-year rehabilitation order and a three-year supervision order, and to live for six months at a residential unit.

Judge Nicholas Cooke told him: "What you got up to was a wicked thing."

"Telling fibs about who did what doesn't help you. I have to make sure that resources are deployed to keep you out of trouble."

The judge said that the boy seemed to have experienced problems and there were some "worrying features" in a report on him.

The sentence, said the judge, had to be welfare-driven.

He pointed out that someone older would

Report by AJ SICLUNA

have had a custodial sentence.

"There now has to be a sentence to put him on the right road. There are indications of behaviour of a very worrying type."

He added that there were problems regarding the fitness to plead for the second defendant.

Prosecutor Nicholas Gareth Jones said that on the afternoon of June 13, the victim was with the two defendants.

"The two of them grabbed him and took him to a nearby brook."

One of the defendants scratched him on both forearms with broken glass.

"A plastic bag was put over his head and he saw the flames from a lighter in front of him. He tore the bag off."

Mr Jones said the two then threw stones at him and both punched him on the nose, causing it to bleed.

He went to the home

of an aunt and the next day at school, when a teacher saw his injuries, police were contacted.

"Each defendant blamed the other for what happened"

Ruth Smith, defending, said the 11-year-old, who had no previous convictions, had recently been making some progress and was proud of his educational achievements

Street surgery

LABOUR councillors for Castleland ward, Barry, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake and Karl Kuhnell, will hold a street surgery in Bendrick Road and Hayes Road from 10.30am-11.30am on Saturday, January 29. Contact Chris Elmore on 07867 506 116 for further details.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D654.

● The rollover, which now stands at £10,000, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 120784.

● £10: 475602; 802574; 176992; 440619; 838078; 179814; 583698; 372692; 682475; 643266; 732551; 231684; 304363; 330297; 810330; 662284; 436753; 848835; 792354; 389467.

● £5: 539443; 469385; 847066; 607995; 480562; 245556; 750211; 524981; 831047; 563358; 596889; 508793; 105255; 760581; 389467.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Knap walk

ART4U is organising a 'coming of the light' walking contemplation, on February 2 at 6.30pm at the Knap Lake and Gardens, Barry, (assemble at the Bridge on the lake). Art 4U is a voluntary organisation set up to share art with the community.

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'Beware callers'

Barry police warn

POLICE in Barry have warned householders to be on their guard against cold callers after two men purporting to be from SWALEC tried to gain access to the home of a 90-year-old woman during the weekend, but were refused.

Neighbourhood Inspector Louise Davies said:

"It is extremely important for householders to ask for and

check ID closely before allowing anybody into their homes.

"Just because someone says they are from a utility company and are wearing what looks like a uniform doesn't mean that they are who they say they are.

"Always check their identity card and if you are still in any doubt do not let them into your home no matter how convincing they are."

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NEWS FROM THE PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

NINA'S BATTLE IS REMEMBERED

AFTER what turned into a glorious week of frosts and cold but sunny days, the ground that was boggy from rainfall had frozen solid in most places, making it a hard but slippery platform to walk on.

Thirteen walkers and leader Geraint with his collie Patch, were glad to be out on a fresh and dry Saturday morning last weekend to take advantage of the dry spell, as they began their walk from the church in Wenvoe village.

Wenvoe originally developed as a farming area around the 12th century parish church which is dedicated to St Mary, and during the latter medieval period, the de Sully, le Fleming and Malefaunt families owned the land and when it was returned to the Crown, the Thomas, Birt and Jenner families imprinted their stamp on the area.

During the 1770s, there was major development in Wenvoe but following a fire in 1910, a major part of the redevelopment was wiped out.

Then later, during the 1960s, even the railway line fell under the



ABOVE: The ramblers at St Lythans burial chamber.

Beeching axe and the old railway line is now sadly grown over and unusable. However, the village, still part of an agricultural community, is going strong.

Walking through the rear of the village, the group tramped Pound Lane and entered the pretty path through Wenvoe Wood, known affectionately as 'Nina's Path' and dedicated to the group's first foot-path officer Nina Smith.

Now sadly deceased, Nina fought a battle for many years when this pathway was closed by the landowner and due to her dogged determination the path was re-opened.

Turning south on to Burdonhill Lane, the group made its way past

the farm and skirted the edge of Wenvoe Castle golf course and into the woods where they met up with the shoot.

Luckily for them, the party had just finished and were in the process of moving on to another area. Walking parallel with the Goldsland Wood, the group passed an old lime kiln in a field and made their way through Maes-y-felin to the St Lythans Long Cairn, where they took a coffee break and discovered its history.

This Neolithic chambered tomb is known as Gwal-y-Filiast or 'the Greyhound Bitch's Kennel', apparently because it was once used as an animal shelter. It is located in a field known as the

'Accursed Field' and an explanation is that the field is barren and nothing will grow there.

The three upright stones – the back one has a hole at the top – are crowned by a huge capstone measuring 14 foot by 10 foot and the entrance faces north east.

Originally, the tomb would have been covered by a mound of earth or stones and there are many folklore legends surrounding it.

Folklore has it that any wish whispered to the stones at Halloween is granted, and the capstone is said to spin three times on Midsummer's Eve when the stones go down to the river to bathe.

Continuing their

southerly journey across fields, they dipped into the valley and crossed the Goldsland Brook, before making their way up to New Wallace Farm to join the lane leading to Wenvoe Castle.

The original castle possibly dates back to 1540, but there are no traces left and the present mansion house was the home of Hugh Jenner, the golf club's first president; having been refurbished, it is now the clubhouse.

Taking the rough lane that led them back to Burdonhill, the group crossed a stile that led them through fields behind the garden centre where there were glorious views towards Cardiff and the Wrinstone valley, before descending slightly to re-enter Wenvoe village.

On January 29, meet at 9.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a six to seven mile easy walk out from the Brecon Beacons Mountain Centre; contact Val H on 029 2051 3274.

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Barry Camera Club entries win photo competition awards



Rippled landscape.

BARRY Camera Club's December competition, which was postponed because of icy weather, was held on January 21.

It was judged by Dave Russell, who has judged on the Welsh Photographic Federation circuit for many years. He made fair comments on entries and was constructive and encouraging where required.

Winners

In the monochrome print category, in third place was Sea Attraction by Brian Trego – a very simple, but effective portrayal of a dog on the beach casting a shadow on the sand as the sea ebbs.

In second place was Fading Beauty by Huw Wynn – a dying Tulip with detailed shrivelling petals and leaves.

The winner was St Mary's Church by Rob Owens – a stunningly good architectural shot, with the church in the background and gravestones in the foreground.

In the colour print category, in third place was Follow The Leader by Mike Lewis – people and children with dogs on a sandy beach. This aerial shot is simple, with a definite sense of design, as we view the shapes, trails and prints left by the beach visitors.

In second place was Sunrise by Brian Trego – a snowy mountain shown against a clear, yet cold sky.

In first place was Rippled Landscape by Barbra Archdale-Smith – taken in Tuscany, the title describes the land, light, shadows and undulating land blended together to great effect.

In the projected images category, third place went to The Captain And His Ship by Mac Britton – a colourful shot of an Arab on a camel against a blue summer sky.

In second place was Glencoe by Brian Trego – a serene image with a recession of hills cloaked in mist.

The winner was Isty Bitsy Spider by Steve Everett – a macro shot of a spider. Every detail can be seen down to the very fine hairs on the spider's legs.

A notable image was also produced by one of our newer members. It was called Jasmine by Allan Preece, and was a portrait of a young girl. It scored 17 marks out of 20 in this month's competition.

Barry Camera Club meets every Friday evening from 7pm-9.30pm between September and May at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry, CF62 6NX.

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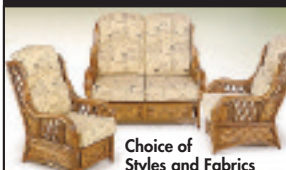
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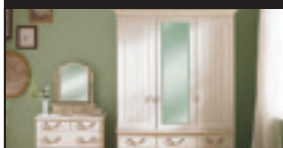
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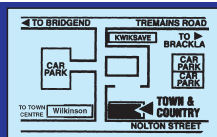
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Poignant record of a family's sacrifice in the Great War

LOCAL military historian and headteacher of St Cyres Comprehensive School, Dr Jonathan Hicks, tells the story of one Barry family's contribution to the First World War.

DURING the course of my research into the role that Barriars played during the two world wars of the last century, I came across the story of one remarkable family who contributed much to the war effort.

A father, mother and two sons were all on national service during that terrible conflict, which lasted from 1914 to 1918 and claimed the lives of nearly 900,000 Britons.

The Paul family lived at 43 High Street in Barry. The father, Ernest Paul, was a member of the National Union of Railwaymen and worked as a shipping clerk on Barry Docks. He was a teetotaler, being a member of the 'Sons of Temperance' movement.

Ernest was 43 years of age when he volunteered to join the army in November 1915 at Cardiff Recruiting Office. He had already served with the Reserve,

receiving and issuing hospital food supplies and wrote on his form:

"My 30 years' experience amongst shipping, 25 years close and direct experience in weighing and keeping records of quantities and qualities of coal cargoes shipped for His Majesty's Navy and other uses, knowledge of Docks, Cargo Vessels and their ports of destination, at home and abroad, qualifies me to assist in the shipping and unshipping of General Cargo and etc, either for the Army, Navy or Merchant Service."

He was assigned to the 4th Company of the Royal Army Medical Corps at the Royal Victoria Military Hospital at Netley in Hampshire. In 1916, while at home on leave, he was presented with a framed emblem in recognition of his services in the cause of Trade Unionism.

On January 1, 1918, Ernest was discharged from the RAMC as being no longer physically fit for active service as he was suffering from rheumatism in both shoulder joints.

He was awarded a Silver War Badge to show the public that he had been discharged, and a pension of 27/6 for four weeks, then 11 shillings for a further 44

weeks.

He had married his wife Annie (née Davis) at St John's Parish Church in Canton on December 22, 1893. Annie served throughout the war as a nurse at the St John Detaining Hospital on Barry Island, where hundreds of wounded soldiers were treated before the building was given back to the church movement and renamed the St John's Methodist Church.

Herbert Sidney Paul was their eldest son. Educated at Cadoxton School, after competing his schooling he was employed as a Cardiff postman.

He was a member of the Cadoxton Wesleyan Church and Cadoxton Methodist Church and had dark brown hair and hazel eyes.

He enlisted, aged 19, in September 1914, just a month after the outbreak of war and served for 10 months in the 19th Hussars. On June 15, 1915, he was transferred to the 8th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and served in Gallipoli.

On October 25, 1915, he was promoted to Lance Corporal. On December 8 he was hospitalised on Malta with frostbite. Two months later he was able to



Military Hospital, Netley, Hampshire.

rejoin his unit at Port Said in Egypt in February 1916.

On April 5, 1916, Herbert was killed, aged just 21, during the attack at Fallahiya, which was held by the Turks trying to relieve the garrison at Kut in Mesopotamia. The RWF took the 3rd Turkish line but were shelled by their own guns and suffered 200 casualties that day.

As well as being commemorated on the roll of honour in the Hall of Memory in Barry Memorial Hall, Herbert's name is also

on the Cadoxton Methodist Church Memorial, the Cadoxton School and Barry Post Office Memorials, and the Cardiff General Post Office roll of honour.

As his body was never recovered, his name is listed on the

Commonwealth War Graves Memorial at Basra, in modern Iraq.

On December 3, 1915, his brother Alexander Frederick Paul landed at Egypt. Having enlisted with the Royal Army Medical Corps, like his father, he was initially stationed on the island of Lemnos in the Mediterranean, where he would have treated the wounded from the end of the Gallipoli campaign and afterwards the casualties from the fighting in Mesopotamia.

Unfortunately, Alexander's service record was destroyed by a bomb from a German air raid during the Second World War and it has not been possible at this stage to find any further details of his war service. He was awarded three medals: the 1914-



British troops in Mesopotamia.



ABOVE: THE PAUL FAMILY.

15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

As part of the army bureaucracy relating to Herbert's death, in September 1919 Ernest Paul received a postcard from the Infantry Records Department stating that they had not received his late son's particulars.

He wrote a particularly sad reply in a letter in which he stated that he had sent the details, as witnessed by Mr Roberts (JP) of Windsor Road. To make the situation clear, Ernest had poignantly added the word 'deceased' to the reference to his son, after he had completed the letter.

Just a few days before Christmas (and their wedding anniversary) in

1919, Ernest and Annie received a package from the War Office, containing these words:

"I am directed to forward to you the accompanying Memorial Scroll together with the King's Message in commemoration of the soldier mentioned therein. The plaque will be forwarded to you in due course direct from the plaque factory. Will you please sign the receipt below, and return in the stamped, addressed envelope."

Imagine how the family must have felt at reading these cold, dispassionate words. Ernest Paul duly signed and returned the form. On August 10, 1920, Annie Paul signed a form acknowledging receipt of her late son's three

medals. What a heart-breaking moment that must have been.

It is a sad irony indeed that a family who gave so much to saving soldiers' lives during the conflict should have lost one of their own members, possibly to a shell from his own side.

Ernest and Annie Paul also had two daughters, Lillian Harriett and Winifred Jane, and the family later lived at 115 Queen Street. If readers can add any further information to this moving story I should be glad to hear from them.

Jonathan Hicks' debut crime novel, 'The Dead of Mametz', is to be published by the Welsh Books Council in April. Copies can be ordered now through booksellers or Amazon.

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Brown leather sofa with reclining footrests
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Black Swan – a taut psychological thriller that just oozes class

THE success of Darren Aronofsky with *The Wrestler* has brought the director to a bigger audience than his previous works, but despite the success, Aronofsky has remained true to his roots, concentrating on creating intricate works that don't always make for comfortable viewing.

With the Hugh Jackman-starring *The Wolverine* on the cards for 2012 (Aronofsky making his first trip into big studio/big budget territory), his latest hits screens having achieved massive festival success last year.

Black Swan tells the story of ballet dancer Nina, a sheltered young woman who is chosen to play the role of the white and black swan in a performance of *Swan Lake*. However, as Nina gets to grips with the role, the pressures of the company's artistic director (Vincent Cassel) and new arrival Lily (Mila Kunis) make Nina slowly reach breaking point...

Darren Aronofsky has never been a director to shy away from tough subject matters, as his previous works have attested to; yet with 2009's *The Wrestler*, Aronofsky showed a little more, allowing humanity to enter the frame and as a result, created what was arguably one of the most incredible films of that year.

Fast forward to 2011 and he is at it again, with another film that deals with an individual's passion and commitment for an art form, and the lengths they

will go to to achieve their goals. Unlike *The Wrestler*, however, *Black Swan* is less a tale of muddled redemption and more of a psychological thriller that explores duality with a thriller twist.

It is directed with unerring skill and deftness by Aronofsky, whose use of close-ups and intimate camera shots brings a viscerality and claustrophobia to the film's visuals; yet he shoots the ballet sequences and the darker moments with grandiose flourishes, the camera taking in every pirouette and turn.

As in *The Wrestler*, the camera enjoys taking in the behind the scenes action, the bitchiness and the stresses forming the fabric on which the story is told, as paranoia and doubt bleeds into the character of Nina, and she slowly starts to unravel.

Aronofsky has admitted that this film is a one-two punch alongside *The Wrestler*, and the films have much in common. The attention to detail is thrilling, the close-ups of tying ballet shoes and scoring the soles, all lending an intimacy to the story that highlights the unseen aspect of high art – yet no different to Randy The Ram lacing up his boots and hiding a razorblade in his taped wrists.

While the subjects are miles apart in public perception, Aronofsky shows that the worlds aren't that far apart.

While the theme of duality is laboured upon perhaps a little too much, Aronofsky's direction lends it a clever visual feel, the use of mirrors and reflections playing into the themes, but his direction also riffs on the psychological

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

thrillers such as *Rosemary's Baby* – the blurring between reality and fantasy being expertly handled by the director.

He also takes a superb cast and marshals excellent performances all round. While Natalie Portman (who landed a Golden Globe for her role) is the main focus, the performances around her are just as watchable and engaging. Portman's youthful looks have always pegged her as a skilled performer lacking the ability to truly convey maturity, yet here she convinces with effortless skill.

Portman not only masters the character but also the ballet aspect, the long training sessions she underwent obviously paying off.

Aronofsky's camera doesn't lie, the close-ups necessitating Portman do all the ballet dances, and she carries that element with such a skill you can't help but marvel at the dedication of the actress.

In performance terms, she is undeniably superb – carrying Nina's fractious mental state while being propelled by the machinations of the narrative. While Nina is very much the white swan, it's Portman's embracing of the black swan aspect of her character as she begins to unravel that makes for such gripping viewing, and allows Portman ample opportunity to show her ability.

Opposite Nina (and the black swan to her white swan) is Mila Kunis' Lily, and the actress is given a little

less to chew on than her counterpart, but still offers up a thrilling turn that acts as the perfect counterpoint to Nina's innocence. Kunis has shown glimpses of her ability in the likes of *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* and *The Book of Eli*, but given a more dramatic role she excels, bringing an edge to the character and making her a shady operative in the mechanics of the story.

The remainder of the key players all do well, Vincent Cassel oozing Gallic smarm as the artistic director Nina must convince that she is worthy of becoming the lead, while Winona Ryder pops up as the embittered ex-lead cast on the scrapheap, but is giving only a fleeting moment of screen time.

It is Barbara Hershey who shines brightest on the periphery as Nina's mother, a former ballerina who seems determined to cling onto her daughter.

It is a performance that is finely balanced between madness and genuine concern, and is an exemplary turn from the actress.

Some may not be wholly convinced by the archedness of some of the more fanciful elements of the screenplay, Aronofsky and co ramping up the theatricality while aiming for unease rather than genuine shocks and scares – but it does mean that some of the more subtle moments go unnoticed, the film darkening before the grand guignol climax.

However, its theatricality and excess doesn't detract from what is a wholly gripping and exceptionally well-made piece of filmmaking; and Darren Aronofsky's direction is the cherry on top of what is a tense and dark, but superb, cake, in the shape of *Black Swan*.

VERDICT: Thrilling and engaging, *Black Swan* is an extraordinary film that makes for tense viewing.

Superb direction from Darren Aronofsky and sensational turns from Natalie Portman and Barbara Hershey make this a classy proposition, and one with a skewed sensibility that makes for an unsettling experience. *Essential viewing.*

PLEASE HELP TO FIND ARCHIE...
Brown cocker spaniel puppy lost in the Monkash area on Sunday, January 23.
Any information, please contact Mark on 07813 400729.

Send us your news and views to gemeditorial@tindle-news.co.uk

PASSENGER NUMBERS FALL BY 200,000

CRITICS GANG UP ON CARDIFF AIRPORT

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

THEY say there is no such thing as bad publicity, but Cardiff Airport must be questioning that, after taking a hammering in the media over the last two weeks.

First came the news that passenger numbers had fallen by 200,000, the vast majority of that due to bmbaby cutting back on routes.

The budget airline ceased flying to Edinburgh, Jersey and Munich, and these three routes were said to have accounted for 180,000 lost passengers.

The airline did, however, hold out hope for future expansion, with new routes to Funchal, Dubrovnik, Naples and Verona planned for the summer.

Cardiff Airport's main rival, Bristol, has in contrast enjoyed a good year, with passenger numbers rising.

The remaining 20,000 decrease was attributed to the various closures of the airport that were triggered by the Icelandic ash cloud.

COMPLAINTS

There have also, in recent weeks, been complaints in The GEM letters page about the £1 drop off fee, and about the decision to charge £2 to use a luggage trolley.

In a recent poll conducted on the GEM website, only nine per cent of readers approved of the luggage trolley charges.

Finally, the latest row broke out over increased charges for airport parking.

In the press, the Spanish owners of the airport, Abertis, have been accused of hiking the prices to the highest level in the UK for a week's pre-booked onsite parking.

In fact, the airport finds itself in the position of recommending to passengers that they turn up without pre-booking, because that will attract a cheaper rate!

COMPARABLE

An airport spokesman said that the pre-booking system was being reviewed, because pre-booking was being handled by a third party.

A spokesman insisted that the price for passengers turning up without pre-booking was comparable to other UK airports.

South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies called on the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to "work closely with the airport operators" to help secure a major new carrier and to help the site develop links with Europe's major business centres.

Mr Davies said: "Cardiff Airport is a fantastic asset to the region, and with an international

length runway, it has enormous potential.

"Obviously there will be a number of other factors, including economic conditions, that have impacted on these figures but the focus must now be on finding a new carrier to replace the shortfall left by BMI's decision."

Mr Davies went on: "The existence of a major international airport projects a hugely positive view of the Vale as a gateway into Wales and the rest of the United Kingdom."

"There was some good news this week, with the announcement of a new route from Newquay to Cardiff. However, this is unlikely to impact significantly on passenger numbers – neither does it open up links with the Continent's major business centres."

"The five most popular destinations for people using the airport last year were largely holiday destinations, with Amsterdam, Edinburgh, Alicante, Palma and Malaga making up the list."

There was support for the airport from Hywel Davies of Cardiff & Co, the body set up to promote Cardiff and Wales internationally.

He said that tourism in Cardiff had risen markedly over the past

10 years, and that the airport could benefit from this.

He said: "Visitor numbers to Cardiff last year were 14.6 million – 58 per cent up on 1998. Also, Cardiff is still strong for business opportunities."

A Cardiff Airport spokeswoman said that other factors for reduced passenger numbers were the recession, as general market conditions were affecting both airline and traveller decisions, and also the impact of adverse weather during 2010.

'RESILIENT'

She added: "However, at Cardiff Airport schedule services and charter services are resilient and remain strong and are set for moderate growth – and the airport is continuing aggressive route development efforts."

Spencer Birns, Cardiff Airport's head of Commercial Operations and Air Services Development said: "Passenger numbers in 2010 decreased at Cardiff – as they also did across other UK airports."

"At Cardiff, this was most significantly due to a cut in capacity by low cost carrier bmbaby who continue to cut both routes and frequency in serving Wales."

"Other contributing

factors include the volcanic ash cloud, adverse weather and current economic climate affecting both airline and traveller decisions.

"However, 2011 promises to be a more exciting year for us, with new routes including Funchal, Dubrovnik, Naples and Verona available in the summer, and Swiss based airline, Helvetic Airways will start operating new four-weekly services from Zurich to Wales in March."

"We hope 2011 will be a successful year for the airport and look forward to welcoming more travellers to and from south Wales."

There are, however, a number of disgruntled customers, and Mike Fox is one.

Mr Fox wrote to The GEM saying: "You only have to look at the way airport users are treated to see why numbers have dropped."

"I accept that other factors have contributed but I'm sorry to say that the management is to blame."

"Charging passengers for everything from drop off to pick up and luggage trolleys is appalling."

He added: "You only have to look at the airport title, Cardiff Airport. It has even lost its international status, proof of classic mismanagement."

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

For September 2011, state of the art facilities in all curriculum areas, including: Music, Drama, Design Technology, ICT, Science and P.E.



SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

An open evening for students considering taking their AS/A2 Level studies or L3 BTEC courses will be held on

Tuesday, 1 February
between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm

Shoecare
Shoe repairs, key cutting and engraving

Key Cutting Offer

Yale type (cylinder) keys from £2.25

Back Door (mortice) keys from £4.25 (Security keys & brass mortice keys excluded)

6a Penny Lane Cowbridge (next to Strawberry Fields) Tel: 01446 778 756

Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Offer ends 30th April 2011

Normal service resumed for suspended bus route

A bus company has defended its decision to temporarily suspend a service through part of Barry earlier this month.

On January 5, an EST 95 bus window was smashed during the evening run, and local councillors complained that the subsequent suspension of

the service along St Brides Way and Pencoedre Road had left some people waiting at bus stops wondering what was happening.

A spokesman for EST Bus Ltd explained that there had been two incidents in which there had been damage to buses – on January 5 and January 14. “We have had two

incidents at the same location in which serious damage has been caused. Both have been reported to the police.

“When incidents like this happen, we have a duty of care to the drivers to take action. On both occasions, the windows were damaged directly behind the drivers, with passengers on

board.”

The spokesman explained that the cost of repairing windows could be in excess of £400 on each occasion, which affected profits and also took a bus off the road, requiring a replacement one to be drafted in.

He added that as of Monday, January 24, the service had returned to normal.

Spring clean the beach!

BARRY-BASED environmental group Friends of Barry Beaches will be holding its first beach clean of 2011 this Sunday, January 30; meeting at Marco's Cafe on Whitmore Bay seafront at 3pm.

All volunteers will be welcome. Last month's litter pick at the Knap saw around 18 volunteers spending a productive hour helping to remove fishing line, plastic bottles, drinks cans, nylon rope and glass from the beach.

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

Keying in for growth!

JANUARY is annual general meeting time – an opportunity to review the year August 31, 2010, elect a committee and discuss programme content.

The chairman welcomed members warmly and wished them all a happy new year.

He noted that, as he had also acted as secretary and treasurer, he had

prepared and printed all three reports.

The minutes of the previous AGM had also been circulated and were unanimously approved without amendment, with no matters arising.

The chairman gave a brief review of the last year, and noted that attendance at meetings had increased to an average of 27, and that only one change to the programme of talks had been required.

The club's open evening, as part of the Penarth festival in July, had seen more visitors than any previous year.

He thanked his committee for their support, noting that to be successful, any club needs the active participation by its members in all manner of small tasks.

The secretary's report was brief, as correspondence was minimal and there had been no formal committee meetings during the year.

All necessary business had been satisfactorily carried out by email and informal discussions.

Once again the local press had been supportive, and the audited financial report showed a modest surplus for the year, similar to that for the previous year.

The savings, due to the use of fewer guest speakers, had offset the increased cost of using the premises.

The club had not needed to make any equipment purchases during the year, and bearing all that in mind, it was proposed that there be no increase in annual subscription (still held at the same level as 1992).

The subscription proposal was accepted and all reports accepted.

Moving to the appointment of the committee, the previous

committee was re-elected unchanged, except for Eileen, who was standing down.

The committee now comprises: chairman: Howard Desmond; vice-chairman: Steve Viney; treasurer: Vacant; Secretary: Vacant; auditor: Mrs Sue Seymour; committee members: Mrs Rhona Boudier, Mike Finlay, Mike Jakob.

The chairman accepted a vote of thanks from the meeting, and there being no more business, the short formal meeting was closed.

Members broke for refreshments, before reconvening for a more interesting discussion about the future meeting topics and formats.

The chairman noted with thanks that Mike J had expanded his responsibility as moderator for the club's website to have a go at being the webmaster.

Some modifications and improvements had already been made and members were encouraged to visit the site (www.penarthcomputerclub.co.uk) and offer their comments – we hope to make continuous improvements.

It was decided to discontinue the raffle at meetings, and the programme content was considered at length.

To cope with the range of the computer needs of members, it was felt that we should try out different formats for meetings.

This would include a mix of short instructional sessions on details and longer talks on broader topics and about computer matters generally.

HOWARD DESMOND

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (COLCOT ROAD AT ITS JUNCTION WITH WINSTON ROAD BARRY) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME) ORDER 2010

On the 5th January 2011 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedule below.

The Order will come into operation on the 31st January 2011, or on the date the necessary signs / road markings are in place, whichever is the later. A copy of the Order and a plan showing the affected area may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order, or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act, or on the grounds that any requirement of the same, or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 31st January 2011 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE

Make new Order.

No waiting at anytime.

Colcot Road, Barry

On its north east side from a point 20 metres north west of its junction with Winston Road to a point 15 metres south east of that junction.

Dated this 27th day of January 2011

Mr. M.E. Punter
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Quarry Road, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA.



GORCHYMYN BRO MORGANNWG 2010

(GWAHARDD AROS AR UNRHYW ADEG) (RHAN O COLCOT ROAD A RHAN O WINSTON ROAD, Y BARRI)

Ar 5 Ionawr 2011, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adranau 1 a 2 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddwygiedig) a phob p_er galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn i'r dibenion cyffredinol sydd wedi'u disgrifio yn yr Atodlen isod.

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 31 Ionawr 2011, neu os bydd yn rhaid aros nes y bydd yr arwyddion / marciau ffordd angenrheidiol wedi'u cwblhau, ar y dyddiad hwnnw. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynllun sy'n dangos yr ardal dan sylw yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilyswydd y Gorchymyn, neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b_er i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod, neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 31 Ionawr 2011 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

ATODLEN

Gorchymyn Gwahardd Aros arfaethedig

Gwnewch Orchymyn newydd.

Dim aros ar unrhyw adeg.

Colcot Road, y Barri

Ar ei hochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol rhwng man sy'n 20 metr i'r gogledd orllewin o'r gyffordd â Winston Road a man arall 15 metr i'r de ddwyrain o'r gyffordd honno.

Dyddiedig 27 Ionawr 2011

M.E. Punter
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Heol y Chwarel,
Gwenfô CF5 6AA.



THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (REGENT STREET (PART) AND GLADSTONE ROAD (PART) BARRY) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME) ORDER 2010

On the 5th January 2011 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedule below.

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If you wish to question the validity of the Order, or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act, or on the grounds that any requirement of the same, or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 31st January 2011 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE

Proposed Prohibition of Waiting Order

No waiting at anytime.

Gladstone Road

On its south side from its junction with Regent Street for a distance of 7 metres west.

Regent Street

On both sides from its junction with Gladstone Road for a distance of 10 metres south.

Dated this 27th day of January 2011

Mr. M.E. Punter
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Quarry Road, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA.



GORCHYMYN BRO MORGANNWG 2010

(GWAHARDD AROS AR UNRHYW ADEG) (RHAN O REGENT STREET A RHAN O GLADSTONE ROAD, Y BARRI)

Ar 5 Ionawr 2011, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adranau 1 a 2 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddwygiedig) a phob p_er galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn i'r dibenion cyffredinol sydd wedi'u disgrifio yn yr Atodlen isod.

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 31 Ionawr 2011, neu os bydd yn rhaid aros nes y bydd yr arwyddion / marciau ffordd angenrheidiol wedi'u cwblhau, ar y dyddiad hwnnw. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynllun sy'n dangos yr ardal dan sylw yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilyswydd y Gorchymyn, neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b_er i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod, neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 31 Ionawr 2011 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

ATODLEN

Cynigiwyd gorchymyn sy'n gwahardd aros ar unrhyw adeg yn:

Gladstone Road

Ar ochr ddeheuol yr heol o'r gyffordd â Regent Street am 7 metr i'r gorllewin.

Regent Street

Ar ddwy ochr yr heol o'r gyffordd â Gladstone Road am 10 metr i'r de.

Dyddiedig 27 Ionawr 2011

M.E. Punter
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Gweladwy
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Heol y Chwarel,
Gwenfô CF5 6AA.



Green work placements for unemployed



ABOVE: Examples of garden products for sale at the workshop, all made by jobless 'learners' from waste and donated wood.

JOBLESS people in the Vale are learning carpentry skills while helping to protect the environment.

The Vale Council's lifelong learning employment training service (LETS) is offering work placements to long-term unemployed at Barry's Holm View Centre.

Five local people who had been unemployed for between six and 10 months have now been recruited, and are helping to turn waste wood and donated timber into usable garden products, such as planters and nest boxes, while picking up valuable carpentry skills, a spokeswoman explained.

GEM LETTERS EXTRA...GEM LETTERS EXTRA...

NEW STORE AND A QUESTION OF LOCAL CHILDREN'S SAFETY

HAVING gained their alcohol licence, Sainsbury's application for a premises licence with regard to opening a store in Park Crescent comes before the planning committee on February 3.

One obvious objection to this store is road safety and Sainsbury's clever plan to demolish the old Torque Tools building and turn it into a car park does not create a solution. The main store will front onto the zebra crossing which doubles as a very busy school crossing point during weekdays for pupils attending Romilly Primary School, which is directly opposite.

Pupils, students and adults also make their way to other locations in the town.

Vehicles, including large delivery vehicles, are expected to enter and exit the new store's adjacent car park from Park Crescent by means of drop down points in the public footpath which is the main route that children of all ages, often unaccompanied, use to and from school. That in itself is an accident waiting to happen.

Some parents and guardians of children in

Romilly School have, since it closed, been using the front of the unoccupied Torque building as an informal car park when they are taking and collecting their children from school. It does not take a genius to work out that when a new car park is created, this practice will continue; after all you need only buy a small item to legally become a 'customer' which entitles you to use the car park and just how will Sainsbury's police this?

At the new store there will also be an ATM and at present there are no facilities in the area where you can withdraw cash free of charge, so this is bound to be popular. Passing drivers who believe they are only going to be a minute or so using the ATM are unlikely to utilise the car park and will not care where they park, which in turn will create further problems.

Asking why the town needs yet another supermarket, it seems, is falling upon deaf ears. Wherever a new supermarket is situated will always cause consternation and argument, but what about relocation?

Surely this development would be more suited to the old ski shop and caravan centre on Cardiff Road which is empty and becoming an

eyesore. The store would be located on a main road, close to the Barry Waterfront with a large parking area where the caravans were previously stored, so there would be no need to knock a building down.

The store would be on a main bus route and within walking distance of Cadoston railway station and would pose no threat to the other businesses in the immediate area which is mainly car washes, car showrooms and a tyre centre. There are fewer pedestrians and more importantly it will not be opposite a zebra crossing or a busy school that caters for almost 650 pupils.

Even though traffic surveys have been carried out in the Park

Crescent and surrounding area, this does not reflect the amount of pedestrians that are using the crossing and public pavements or what impact this will have on children's safety.

Let us just hope, that before the planning committee hear this application, they will make a site visit to Park Crescent during the time children are arriving and departing from school – to see what impact the new store will have on the road safety of this already busy area, if only out of courtesy to local residents, and make the right decision which is to turn this application down.

(Name and address supplied)

Youth Champion says 'get in touch'

I WAS privileged to be elected Youth

Champion for the Vale of Glamorgan in October 2010, and since then I have attended various events showing the great work that young people throughout the many communities of the Vale are doing.

I have recently sent out letters to every school council in the county area offering to come along and answer questions and take questions back to the council on what I am sure will be a wide variety of topics.

As Youth Champion, I want to try and contact

and speak to as many young people as possible about the issues that are important to them. So if you have questions, concerns or would like me to come along to your youth group, school council or youth organisation, please get in touch.

I can be contacted by e-mail celmore@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk, by phone on 07867 506 116/ 01446 401 595, by writing to the Vale Council Youth Service or contacting me on facebook.

Coun Chris Elmore (Youth Champion for the Vale of Glamorgan and Councillor for Castleland Ward, Barry)

'Why history proves that we must say Yes'

HOW misleading and contradictory can a name be: 'True Wales' for a no vote, takes this to the ultimate of extreme and hypocrisy.

Remember what history teaches, if people fail to vote Yes for more powers for the Welsh Assembly on March 3.

Remember Tryweryn – Cofiwch Dryweryn? In 1965, the village of Capel Celyn and the Tryweryn Valley was drowned for water for Liverpool.

Families in the Valley raised coffins from the churchyard of loved ones and left their homes

and farms forever. Liverpool did not need the water, they already had a surplus of water being supplied to them from the Welsh hills.

They thought that their population would grow, so planned ahead for more water, at someone else's peril and everlasting cost.

A Private Member's Bill sponsored by Liverpool City Council was put to the Westminster Parliament and on August 1, 1957, the Tryweryn Bill was passed by Harold Macmillan's government, compulsory purchase orders sent out and lives devastated – all in the name of Liverpool.

The water was never needed, the figures wrong. Liverpool sold the water for profit.

All but one Member of Parliament representing Welsh constituencies voted against the bill – but as now, they were outnumbered.

I urge people not to betray Wales and vote Yes on March 3. We are capable of making our own decisions; don't let others do it for you.

Judith Morgan, Bridgend.

'Rushed reforms will hurt the disabled'

I SHARE the concerns raised by the Royal National Institute for the Blind (Cymru) over the rushed and bodged reforms to disability living allowance, and would urge people to write to their Members of Parliament – especially those Conservative and LibDem MPs who are implementing these proposals.

People with long-term disabilities such as sight-loss have additional living costs linked to their disability.

Yet the Conservative-led coalition's plans would end the automatic entitlement

to higher-rate Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for those with long-term severe visual impairment.

Such people will be brought in regularly for re-testing, at great and unnecessary cost to the taxpayer.

A visually-impaired person – through accident at work or illness – will also have to wait for three months before qualifying for the DLA, in effect, penalising them for their disability.

It will simply leave people out of pocket for three months, for no good reason.

To top it all, the government now threatens to remove DLA mobility from people in residential care – so that the

travel costs for a visually impaired person to be accompanied by a sighted escort, or to use a taxi to visit relatives or meet friends will be taken away.

This warped logic suggests that when you move from home into residential care, you suddenly have no need for outside contact, and that you are content to be tucked away from friends and community.

If your readers are concerned over these callous and unjustified attacks on people with long-term sight impairment, they should write immediately to their MPs voicing their concerns.

Huw Irranca-Davies, MP for Ogmore, House of Commons

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CF63 4HN

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• Offered with vacant possession & no chain

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• 3 bedroom semi detached in sought after location
• Gas central heating & double glazed
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• Backing directly onto countryside with panoramic rural views
• Viewing highly recommended

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JENNER STREET, BARRY
• 3 bedroom mid terrace in popular location
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• Newly decorated throughout
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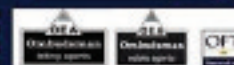
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Out and About with The GEM

Your guide to 'what's on and where' in your area

Floods service

IN response to the recent catastrophic flooding in Brazil and Australia, All Saints

Church in Victoria Square is holding a special service this Sunday, January 30, at 10am. It will have a Noah's Ark theme and is suitable for all ages.

Refreshments served afterwards. All are welcome.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, January 30 at 2pm, Penarth Parks revisited, starting from Penarth Clifftop car park.

Contact 07971 695780 for details.

Green meeting

THE Vale of Glamorgan Green Party will hold a meeting at The Windsor, Windsor Road, Penarth, on January 31. Details on website www.valegreenparty.org.uk

NFU AGM

MINISTER for Rural Affairs in Wales, Elin Jones AM, will be guest speaker at the Glamorgan NFU Cymru annual conference on January 31 at 7.30pm in Grove Golf Club, Cornelly.

She will speak on a number of current policy issues including bovine TB, Glastir and CAP reform. There will also be a question and answer session.

Barry and Vale FoE

THE next meeting of Barry and Vale FoE will be at 7.30pm, on February 1, in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

Incinerators remain high on the agenda, with the formation of a south Wales anti-incinerators group.

Alun Cairns, AM/MP, has agreed to address the concerns of members, in the Castle Hotel, on February 17, at 7.30pm, provided the

Commons is not late in rising.

Art society

ON Thursday, February 3, at 7pm in the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge Art Society has a demonstration using watercolours by Frank Collick. As always, non-members are welcome to attend.

Ysgol Sant Baruc

AR ddydd Gwener y Ionawr 14 cafordd 4 o blant o'r adran iau'r arhwyddedd o weithio gyda Gwyneth Glyn sef un o feirdd plant Cymru.

Bu Harri Edwards a Lucy Werrett o flyddyn 5 a Morgan Long a Harrison Burbridge o flyddyn 6 yn llyffgell y Barri am y dydd yn barddoni. ON Friday, January 14, four pupils from the junior department had the honour of attending a workshop with the singer/songwriter and children's poet Gwyneth Glyn.

Lucy Werrett and Harri Edwards from year-5 and Morgan Long and Harrison Burbridge from year-6 spent the day at Barry Library writing poems.

LIFT raises spirits!

VOLUNTARY organisation LIFT (Life Is For Today), a self-help group for those affected by breast cancer, meets regularly to offer support and friendship for people living in the Vale.

On January 16, the group travelled to Cardiff to see *Mamma Mia*, followed on January 19 by a New

Year lunch at Trio's Brasserie in Cowbridge.

The next LIFT group meeting will be in Cowbridge on Wednesday February 2, between 10 am and 1pm for relaxation therapies, including reflexology, Reiki and Indian head massage.

On February 16 from 2pm to 4pm, Heather Drake, hair designer and wig maker, will give a talk and demonstration of styles to further 'lift' spirits!

New members are welcome. Contact Hilary on 01446 749756 or Anne on 01446 772843 for further information.

Cancer appeal

LOCAL fundraisers for Cancer Research UK will be hosting a coffee morning on February 18 at the RAFA Club on Station Hill, Porthcawl, at 11am.

Admission £1, coffee and biscuits, usual stalls and raffle. On March 19, at 12.30pm, the Hi Tide will again be the venue for the annual Fish and Chip lunch. Tickets £7, includes coffee, stalls and raffle.

Dinas Powys Music Festival

ARRANGEMENTS are in hand for this popular annual festival, which has been moved forward to May 8 - May 15. The programme will range from orchestral to male voice choir, jazz, instrumental and choral, plus local schools will be involved.

COMPETITION IS GO!

Win Gerry Anderson stamps with The GEM

ROYAL MAIL is in 'super' mode to start the new year, with an amazing selection of commemorative stamps for 2011 - taking off in style with a tribute to Gerry Anderson, the genius behind the groundbreaking cult TV series *Supercar* and *Thunderbirds*.

Readers of The Glamorgan GEM can help Royal Mail celebrate the forthcoming programme by entering our stamp competitions from January to December.

This year, we will be giving you the chance to win presentation packs of stamps that will feature images of African

elephants, Siberian tigers, Merlin the magician, the Royal Shakespeare company, Olympic athletes, the crown jewels and children's favourite, Thomas the Tank Engine!

The lucky winners of the stunning presentation stamps in this month's competition will be delighted with the 'motion picture' images on a special miniature sheet of four stamps included in the presentation pack.

When the images are tilted back and forth, the iconic opening sequence of *Thunderbirds* is played, launching: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1!

Gerry Anderson said: "I feel incredibly proud that my work has been chosen to appear on a set of Royal Mail

stamps and to see actual animation of the opening scenes of *Thunderbirds* appear on the motion stamps is really wonderful."

To enter the competition, all you have to do is answer the following question:

Gerry Anderson created which of these programmes:

- Thunderbirds
- X Factor
- Strictly Come Dancing?

Send your entries on a postcard, marked 'Gerry Anderson stamps', to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL by Friday, February 4.

Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into - good luck!

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Dinas Powys Welsh Society

OHERWYDD tywydd garw bu rhaid gohirio gwasanaeth mis Ragfyr o weithgareddau Cymdeithas Gymraeg Dinas Powys ond pleser yn cyhoeddi ein bod yn ail-gydio yn ein hamserlen ar y 7fed Chwefr am 7.30 yn Neuadd Eglwys San Pedr.

Edrychwn ymlaen yn fawr iawn at gael cwmni Philip Harvard sy'n berchen ar siop 'Antiques' yn y Bonfante. Fe fydd yn son am "hen bethau" ac yn si'r o agor ein llygaid i werthoedd rhai creiriau.

Croeso mawr i unrhyw un ymuno a ni - a pwy a'yr -wrth wrando ar yr arbenigwr efallie vnwech chi ddarganfod fod yna declyn gwerthfawr yn cuddio yng nghefn cwpwrdd yn eich i'chi!

We look forward to welcoming Philip Harvard, who owns an antiques shop in Cowbridge.

He will talk to us about antiques and I'm sure will open our eyes to the value of various items.

We welcome anyone to join us, and who knows - having listened to the expert you may discover that you have a valuable item lurking at the back of the cupboard!

DONOR SESSIONS

THE Welsh Blood Service is holding the following donor sessions in the area.

Old School, South Road, Sully, Thursday, February 3, 10am-6pm. Mobile Donation Clinic, Sainsbury Store, Y Dderwen, Sarn, Bridgend, Friday, February 4, 10.45am-1.45pm and 3.15pm-6.30pm. (Please call 01443 622193 or e-mail donor.appointments@wales.nhs.uk to make appointment.)

Bedwas Hall, Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road, Barry, Tuesday, February 8, 10am-6pm. Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road, Llantwit Major, Monday,

SCOUT JUMBLE

THE 1st Dinas Powys Scout group jumble sale is on Saturday, February 5, at 1.30 pm in the Scout Hall, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys. Admission 50p.

HOST FAMILIES URGENTLY REQUIRED

to accommodate European students. Short or long stay. Excellent remuneration. Telephone Chris on 01792 460085 or mobile 0876 497459

Memories of childhood



Cathryn Weatherhead: 'Herbert and the cows'. AN exhibition in Bridgend Library throughout February features illustrations by Bridgend-based illustrator Cathryn Weatherhead.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's arts and community development and Bridgend library service, it takes viewers back to childhood nostalgia through combining mono-printing and collage with digital techniques.

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Vale of Glamorgan BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2011



BUILDERS and developers who use the building regulation service in the Vale of Glamorgan, will be attending the Building Awards dinner organised through the Building Control Group of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

For the eighth year in succession, it will be held at the Best Western Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry on January 28.

Nominations for the awards are provided by the council's building control surveyors, who are responsible for the supervision of the projects as they progress on site, through to the completion of building work.

Coun Jeffrey James, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, stated: "This is the eighth successive year of the Building Awards and we have great pleasure in providing recognition to builders and developers who are determined to provide a high quality customer-orientated service.

"The Building Awards go to show yet again that there are many

instances where high-quality construction projects have been undertaken within the Vale of Glamorgan.

"It is important that builders and developers are recognised for all the right reasons, and the awards have been gratefully received over the previous years"

Marcus Goldsworthy, Operational Manager for the Development and Building Control Group, said: "Building Regulations now play a big part whenever we decide to make alterations, extend or construct new buildings. With recent changes to the planning process and the devolution of the building regulations to the Welsh Assembly, reducing carbon emissions will be at the forefront of the legislation changes we will see in the coming years."

Everyone has a part to play in conserving energy and reducing carbon emissions, as it impacts on us all, from householder to major developer. Changing the way we construct buildings to make them more sustainable will be a big ask for our developers.

Ensuring that buildings are constructed in accordance with current building regulations requires a high standard of workmanship, and the builders nominated this year have proven that they can meet this

requirement.

The Building Control Group is within the Planning and Transportation Division of the Vale Council.

Head of Service Rob Thomas stated: "Development of any size increasingly has a major impact on the day-to-day lives of people who are undertaking building projects.

"Ultimately, it is the builder who has the major responsibility in satisfying not only the customer needs, but also statutory bodies. The Building Awards will help assist the builder and developer meet these needs as well as giving them well-deserved recognition for consistently carrying out work of a high standard."

Winners of the Vale event will go forward to the LABC south Wales Building Awards dinner at the Vale of Glamorgan Golf & Spa Resort, Hensol, on April 8, which will be hosted by television personality Jason Mohammed.

The ultimate achievement can be recognised at national level, where the winners of the south Wales event will be nominated into the LABC National Building Awards, which will include nominations from most of the local authorities throughout Wales and England, in London this October.



This year's award categories are:
Extension/Alteration • Home Conversion • New Dwellings
• Social Affordable Housing • Public Community Building

The Vale of Glamorgan Building Control Awards are kindly sponsored by



Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Excellence Awards 2011

Category: **Extensions/Alterations**



Limes Court Lodge The Limes, Cowbridge

Agent: 1010 Architects of Penarth
Contractor: Mike Hopkins of Barry

This scheme involved the refurbishment and extension of an 'L' shaped cottage into a 'U'-shaped dwelling. This included new ground and first floors and new roofs.

Together with the extension, the property now includes on the ground floor a kitchen / dining / living room, cloakroom, utility room and a second living room.

On the first floor, there are two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, two other bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The original cottage had been extended to a poor standard many years previously, and presented unforeseen logistical problems to the builder.

However, with considerable attention to detail, these problems were overcome.



Unfortunately, during the course of the building work, the builder succumbed to a terminal illness; but to the credit of his family and workforce, their commitment to completing the project to his exacting standards was paramount.

The result is a superb conversion of a rather non-descript property into a highly desirable dwelling of superior standard and finish.

1010 Architects.
We are delighted to be nominated for the Vale of Glamorgan Building Awards.



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www.1010architects.com

14 Park Road, Barry

Agent: Peter Jenkins, of Cowbridge
Contractor: Robert Ashman of Rhoose

The old adage 'the only way is up' was fully embraced in this project, to convert the existing loft space of a first floor flat overlooking Barry Town waterfront.

Submitted under a Building Notice, it maximises the potential use of the original roof structure by creating a wealth of extra living space.

The conversion saw the addition of three spacious bedrooms, one with en-suite, and a sizeable bathroom.

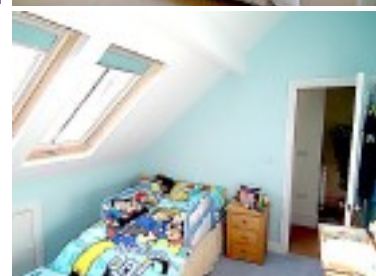
The contractor overcame many challenges throughout the project, incorporating measures over and above the standards required by Building Regulations.

The conversion has been insulated to a high standard, with the emphasis on ensuring a high degree of fire safety throughout.

It involved a substantial structural upgrade of the roof structure, all of which was carried out with great care and consideration in order to minimise disturbance to the storey below.

Key features and finishes, such as specialist crafted newel posts and balustrading to complement the existing staircase, have been conscientiously implemented throughout the project.

A high standard of workmanship, coupled with a meticulous approach to achieving the desired finish, ensured a final product that is both luxurious and in keeping with the contemporary theme of the property.



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19, Brean Close, Sully

Contractor: Warren Baker



This project was carried out under a Building Notice, a form of Building Regulation application that does not receive prior approval of drawings and specification.

This puts the onus on the builder to ensure compliance with Building Regulations and requires his close liaison with Building Control. Fortunately, this worked like clockwork.

Although on the surface a simple extension, the work involved forming an opening in the existing timber frame dwelling.

It had to be carefully executed to a high standard, to ensure structural stability and protection to the timber frame.

The work also required that foundations bridge over existing drainage, which again needed careful execution to protect the drains.

The roof includes a vaulted ceiling with roof light. The general standard of work is excellent, especially the face brickwork.

22 Marine Drive, Ogmore By Sea

Agent: James Carter: Alan Barker of Cardiff
Contractor: A One Construction



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The original property comprised a split level design of traditional construction. It has been completely transformed by the demolition and replacement of a single-storey rear extension with a new two-storey extension.

Extensive internal alterations have also been carried out to provide sumptuous living accommodation.

The existing roof was removed and replaced to provide a bedroom, gallery and study. The building was designed to maximise the location adjacent to the beach at Ogmore, by providing uninterrupted views over the

Bristol Channel.

The logistics were complicated, but the contractor overcame all problems to achieve a dwelling of modernist design, with a high standard of workmanship, which is reflected in the finished product.

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Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Excellence Awards 2011

Category: **New Dwellings**



Golygfa, Colwinston

Agent: Des Oakley of Porthcawl
Contractor: A. J. Banks Building Contractors Ltd

The work comprised a new dwelling, which replaced a defective/dilapidated bungalow. The building has been designed to maximise views over open countryside.

It has been constructed to a high specification, both structurally and decoratively, including fixtures and fittings.

Energy conservation was a major factor in the design. The dwelling incorporates a ground source heat pump to power the underfloor heating system.

The perimeter cavity walls were constructed to a high thermal efficiency, providing a U-value of 0.14 w/m²k. Similarly, the roof construction was insulated to a high specification, achieving a U-value of 0.11 w/m²k. The roof construction incorporates solar panels to supplement the hot water supply and photovoltaic cells to generate electricity.

The system is licensed to generate electricity, which is sold back to the grid.

The windows are high efficiency products imported from Denmark, being triple glazed. The ground floor construction was also insulated to a high specification, providing a U-value of 0.14 w/m²k. A rain water harvesting system provides filtered water for the toilets.

The result is a carbon neutral house using high standards of insulation and alternative sources of energy.

The attention to detail by the builder and the owner throughout the construction has resulted in a superb dwelling, with all fittings, and fixtures including decoration being finished to a high standard and tasteful design.



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Penlan, Cowbridge

Agent: Connections Design of Cardiff
Contractor: Sean Kelly Construction

This new dwelling was built on the site of an old bungalow, set in an elevated plot on the edge of the hamlet of Penlan.

Due to restrictions imposed by the Planning Department, the ridge height of the new building could not exceed that of the former building.

Hence this development required substantial groundwork to reduce levels beforehand.

The two-storey bungalow was designed to maximise the views over the Thaw Valley and Cowbridge, with the main living and kitchen areas being situated on the south elevation.

On the north elevation, an imposing oak beam and post entrance structure leads into a hallway, with a splendid bespoke curved oak staircase leading to first floor accommodation.

The dressed stonework on some external walls has been repeated internally on the chimney breasts; while the other external finishes are a mixture of render and horizontal cladding.

The dwelling benefits from a ground-source heating system set in adjoining land to the south. Drainage involves a bio-disc treatment plant and associated soakaway, while substantial photo-voltaic panels are situated on the south facing roof of the detached garage.

The builder maintained close contact with Building Control and has achieved high standards of workmanship rarely displayed in the modern building industry.



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Fax: 029 2056 9845

Mobile: 07968 859095

Email: j.kelly4@btinternet.com

Trem y Glyn, 8 Windmill Lane, Cowbridge



Agent: Don Mitchell of Cowbridge
Contractor: Mead Bro Constructions

Two new dwellings have been built in the grounds of a former bungalow, set within a large residential curtilage in this elevated area of Cowbridge.

The properties are mirror images of each other and are finished externally in buff coloured stone-faced blockwork and tiled roofs.

Precast concrete beam and block floors were utilised on both ground and first floor, whilst the roof was designed as attic trusses to maximise potential.

The accommodation provides for most of the living space on ground floor level to benefit from the views over open countryside to the south.

To enhance this attraction, raised patio areas are also included to the rear. The space beneath has been put to use as garden storage rooms.

The large entrance hall has an ornate split-direction oak staircase leading to the first floor where there are 4 large bedrooms, most with en-suite bathrooms, a further family bathroom, and a staircase leading to bedrooms in the attic spaces.

The builders have maintained close contact with Building Control during the project, which displays a high standard of finish throughout.

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Gwaun Wen Farm, Hensol



Agent: Phillip Wynne Architect of Cowbridge
Contractor: Ian Watts Carpentry

This work was proposed as a substantial extension to an existing traditional farmhouse, but as work progressed, it became impractical to complete as an extension, to the point where it was then considered to be a new dwelling.

The main building envelope replicates the footprint of the original dwelling, with the inclusion of single-storey side extensions, a detached garage and office, and a basement parking area.

The rear garden / patio area is raised above the basement parking section and provides uninterrupted views over the surrounding countryside.

The traditionally-built dwelling has local dressed stone cladding to the single storey and garage. The other external finishes are of render and slated roofs. The detailing of the external stonework is complemented internally by many bespoke features and finishes.

Due to the complexity of the ground-work in particular, the builder maintained close liaison with Building Control. The standard of building work and finishes is exemplary and the finished product is well worthy of inclusion in our awards scheme.

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Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Excellence Awards 2011

Category: **Social Affordable Housing**



146 – 152 Court Road, Barry

Applicant: Cadarn Housing Group, Tongwynlais
Agent: Davies Llewelyn & Jones LLP of Cardiff
Contractor: Tremlett & Griffiths of Maesteg

The work consisted of four 4-storey terraced properties with communal parking at the rear.

The design was of traditional construction masonry walls, beam & block floor on the ground floor, timber floors on the upper floors with traditional cut roof.

As the properties were over 4 storeys, with no alternative exit from the upper storey, they needed to be fitted with a sprinkler system throughout.

The work was carried out to an excellent standard, reflected in the air-pressure test results being well below the required standard of 5 – proving that good workmanship can achieve the requirements set out in the building regulations.

The energy performance certificates (EPCs) to the properties indicated an energy efficiency level B in both performance and environmental impact of the project.

Pre-completion sound testing was also undertaken on the separating walls and the results were well within the minimum guidelines required in the approved documents (Part E).

This project was executed by a professional team, who maintained a close liaison with Building Control.

The result is a quality development that is ideally suited to its location and certainly achieved its design concept.

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61-73, Main Street, Barry

Agent: Tony King Architects of Penarth
Contractor: Mi-space (UK) Ltd /
Project Manager - David Bryant

This prominent urban regeneration scheme in central Barry, consists of five 3-bedroom town houses and 15 one and two bedroom apartments, with open plan kitchen/living areas; all with separate access over three storeys.



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Pleased to be nominated for
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 for Jacksons Quay - Phase 1
 and Main Street, Barry

Traditional methods of construction were used and the site, in a built-up residential/commercial area, also had to overcome congestion, due to access and storage constraints.

The building contractor worked sympathetically with the residents, ensuring the roads around the area were kept clean and tidy – and having high regard for health and safety.

The contractors' site management team maintained constant contact with Building Control throughout the project, which helped ensure the success of this development.



Jacksons Quay - Phase 1 Site E7, Barry Waterfront

Applicant: Newydd Housing Association
Agent: Tony King Architects of Penarth
Contractor: Mi-space (UK) Ltd /
Project Manager - Mark Perry

This scheme involved 10 ownhouses and two 2-storey houses with parking.



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This first phase development consists of two blocks of one 4-bedroom, four 3-bedroom, townhouses and one, 2-storey, 2-bedroom house, and combines elegance and style on the Waterfront, making it a highly desirable place to live.

The properties are of traditional masonry construction with flat roofs, cream coloured rendering with coloured render panels and juliet type balconies.

Numerous site meetings were held between the building contractor, architect, developer and building control, to discuss how the project would develop through the construction process and any technical issues that arose.

As a consequence of this team approach, the first phase was constructed to a high quality standard of workmanship, which was a major factor in its success.



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We are delighted to be nominated for the Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Excellence Awards 2011. Thank you to our contractors Mi-space and Tremlett & Griffiths for completing high quality developments at Jacksons Quay, Main Street and Court Road, in Barry.

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Category: Home Conversion

Hensol Castle Park, Hensol

Agent/Contractor: Mr Leeke



This development is set within the grounds of a grade-1 listed building, known as Hensol Castle. The nine former isolation wards of the previous hospital site have been transformed into six luxury apartments per unit.

They have been extended by the use of modern glass conservatories, bringing the outdoors inside, while making the most of the stunning rural landscaping.

The developer had to base the designs on strict planning constraints, due to the listing of the whole development; – hence the need for care during the construction process.

Pre-construction sound testing was carried out on each unit to enable the developer to have a base for the sound insulation design and thermal element requirements.

During the construction process, the developer had not only to take care in preserving the enve-

lope of the existing units but the landscape had to be protected due to tree preservation orders

Very little of the existing external envelope was altered, the main alterations to these units were to the rear elevation.

The interior of external walls were lined with insulated products and air conditioning systems installed to control the living environment.

The end result was the creation of high quality finished apartments well sound-proofed and insulated, to give a new lease of life to formerly empty hospital isolation units.

As the owner and contractor of the scheme are one and the same, the quality of finish and site control of the whole construction process could be closely monitored.

A development team approach was employed between the owner/contractor, conservation officer, planning officer and the building control officer, which was a major factor in the success of the scheme.

Category: Public Community Buildings

Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Cowbridge

Applicant: The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Contractor/Agent: Carillion



This secondary school development is constructed over three levels, combining traditional building methods and modern techniques.

Good communication between the project manager, Property Services co-ordinator, Clerk of Works and the Building Control staff made for a good project to manage.

The management co-ordinator and trade teams ensured that fire safety acoustics, thermal and disabled access requirements met the appropriate standards.

The constant control of health and safety was very well co-ordinated throughout.

The design theme of this modern school development complements and sits well within the site.



For further information, please contact:
Mark Wusthoff - Operations Manager
Carillion Building
East Moors House, Nettlefold Road
Ocean Park
Cardiff, CF24 5JQ

Telephone: 029 2043 6450
Facsimile: 029 2043 6455
Web Site: www.carillionplc.com

146 – 152 Court Road, Barry

Applicant: Cadarn Housing Group, Tongwynlais
Agent: Davies Llewellyn & Jones LLP of Cardiff
Contractor: Tremlett & Griffiths of Maesteg



Work involved the conversion and extension to the disused chapel into eight substantial 2-bedroom flats over three storeys, with an undercroft to allow vehicle access to the communal parking area.

A new internal shell was constructed so the converted building met thermal requirements and building regulations. The internal upper floors were constructed with traditional timber floors with a floating floor to achieve the required sound levels.

Due to the increased travel distance from flat entrance doors to the protected stairway, automatic openable vents were provided in the lobby area.

The workmanship was carried out to a high standard and this was reflected in the sound test results being better than the requirements of the building regulations.

There was a good working partnership between the architect and builder throughout this development.

Trinity Street, Barry

Agent: Peter C. Moseley RIBA of Barry
Contractor: Edward Davies Construction Ltd

The site is located north of the High Street in a mainly residential area, near two schools.

It is located predominantly on the footprint of an old church hall and the proposed construction includes a new church hall at lower and upper floor level, together with ancillary accommodation.

The method of construction is traditional, using load-bearing brickwork/blockwork walls with a glulam laminated timber portal frame.

The volume of the building is considered critical to its design and it was decided to exclude any space that could not be used efficiently. A roof void was therefore ruled out, with the exposed Glulam portal frame supporting the slate roof.

The external wall finish combines locally-sourced natural stonework that will provide a historical link with the adjacent church. A mixture of dark blue anthracite and smooth blue engineering brickwork with contrasting smooth rendered blockwork provides a clean contemporary feel.

To emphasise the entrance elevation, an area of vertical natural Welsh salvaged slate rain-screen cladding within the gable has been incorporated, together. The original inscription stone was salvaged from the old hall and set in corbelled brickwork.



The windows are Iroko hardwood with specialist concrete component sills. The fascias and soffits are timber, with aluminium rainwater goods.

The proposed building is separated from the church by means of a narrow access route that serves both buildings. The building forms its own boundary to Trinity Street and is enclosed by a low natural stone wall with galvanised railing to the north elevation.

Due to the lack of storage area on the site, the building contractor worked sympathetically with residents and pedestrians, ensuring health and safety at all times. Access was on the hill between two schools and in the extreme weather conditions, dust was kept to a minimum.

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As the Vale's most widely-read weekly newspaper, we are committed to supporting the community as a whole, and local businesses in particular, especially at such a difficult time economically.

As such it gives us genuine pleasure to publicly acknowledge their professional achievements – and what better way to do this than through these prestigious Vale of Glamorgan Council awards?

The nominees listed in this special supplement had to fight off formidable competition to get this far and they can be justifiably proud of themselves

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Caroline Attya, General Manager

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The company is progressive and open to any new waste reduction initiatives and actively pursues new waste recycling ideas.

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Councillor Colin Osborne, the Mayor of the Vale or Glamorgan, is pleased to be associated with the Council's Building Control Group's eighth 'Building Awards' and wishes every success to the nominees.



Maer Cynghorydd Colin Osborne, Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, yn falch o gael ymwneud ag wythfed cynllun 'Gwobrau Adeiladu' Grŵp Rheoli Adeiladu'r Cyngor ac yn dymuno pob llwyddiant i'r rhai sydd wedi'u henwebu

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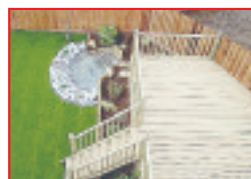
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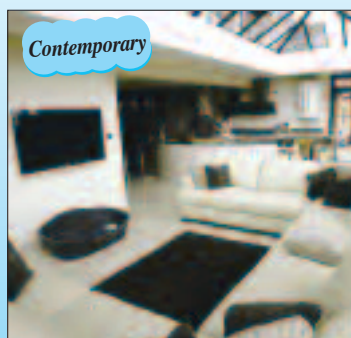
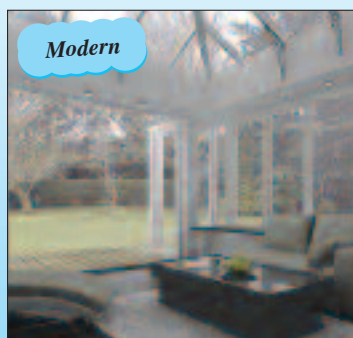


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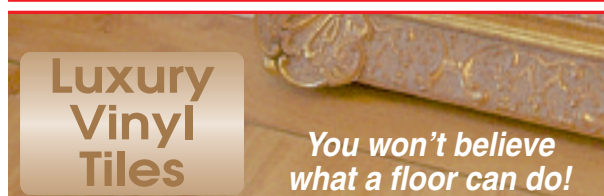
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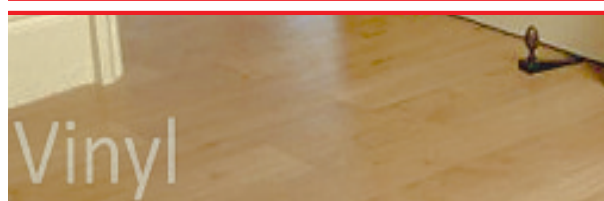
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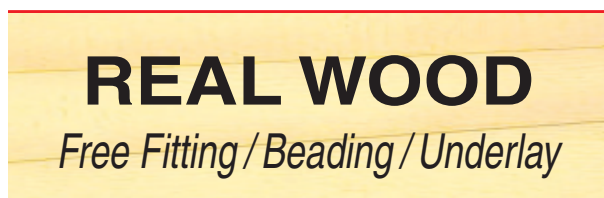
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Latest Vale planning proposals

Mr Gwyn Rees – **Wrinstone Farm, Wenvoe** – Fodder barn.
Mariners Heights Limited – **Mariners Heights, Paget Place, Penarth** – To fell and remove 10 trees on the side of Mariners Heights and replant with a more suitable species.

Mr and Mrs Harvey – **The Hollies, Port Road, Wenvoe** – Demolition of existing garage and construction of new timber clad garage. Closing up of existing vehicle access onto Caerau Lane, and construction of new vehicle access onto Caerau Lane to include small extension of residential curtilage.

Mrs J Evans – **The Keys (off Colhugh Street), Llantwit Major** – Dismantle two mature horse chestnut trees.
Mrs L Cuddy – **9 and 10**

Paget Place, Penarth – Fell two pear trees and two Leyland cypress (at no. 9), 15 per cent thin and 5m reduction of laterals (E) to walnut tree (at no. 10).

Alison Enterprises – **Former Architectural Aluminium Ltd factory, corner of Cardiff Road and Verlon Close, Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry** – Change of use of part of building to car sales motor dealership and part of external area to car sales. Alterations to external face of building.

Alison Enterprises – **Former Architectural Aluminium Ltd factory, corner of Cardiff Road and Verlon Close, Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry** – New signage on building and erection of free standing advertisement sign.

Mr Anthony Hayward – **68 Eastgate, Cowbridge** – Amend condition six of planning consent reference 2005/00047/FUL relating to hours of opening.

Mr Mark Yang – **3 Heol y Brenin, Penarth** – Single storey extension, with garage conversion.

Mr Steven Jose – **7 Anglesey Close, Llanwit Major** – Ground floor extension to kitchen.

Chris Evans – **Brooklands Cottage, Methodist Lane, Llantwit Major** – Fell two Leyland cypresses.

Mr David Gwyn – **St Mary's Golf Club, St Mary Hill** – Change of use of golf driving range to caravan park for touring caravans/camper vans.

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, **Broadway, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – demountable building to be used as a computer suite for use by the school.

Mr Graham Rees – **Sydney House Farm, Llysorweny** – Rear extension to barn of Sydney House Farm comprising conservatory, dormer windows and rooflights.

Mr Geraint Jones – **Llys y Coed, City** – removal of partition wall to create open plan kitchen/living area. Alterations to windows and doors in kitchen/living area at rear of property. Alteration to WC in hallway.

Mr Gareth Illingworth – **244 Barry Road, Barry** – Demolish conservatory, replace detached garage with attached garage and extend at back to provide additional living space on ground floor and an additional bedroom on first floor.

Mr Peter Jones – **Kingscombe House, Llanmihangel Road, Llanblethian** – Raise garage roof to provide storage space.

Ms Sylvia Williams – **4 Coed Mawr, Highlight Park, Barry** – Two storey extension to side of property and front porch.

Mr and Mrs John – **2 Keepers Gardens, Llandough** – Single storey orangery to front.

Mr Stanley Mills – **13 Minster Close, Barry** – Special needs adaptations: single storey shower/WC extension and associated ramped access works.

Jeremy and Cerys Knox – **5 Main Avenue, Peterston Super Ely** – Demolish single storey annexe and construct single storey extensions to front and rear of existing house, relocation of front door and associated external works.

Mr Charles Williams – **25 Windsor Terrace, Penarth** – Replace conservatory with orangery.
Mr Alun Cairns – **Yr Ysgubor Fawr, Wallas Farm, Llanphfa** – Ground floor extension (x 2).

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GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

LOMAX

Peacefully on January 18 at Llandough Hospital, Gerard Anthony (Ged), aged 76 years of Kendrick Road, Barry.

Beloved husband of the late Doreen, a loved father of Lorraine and Gerard and father-in-law of Steve and Teresa.

Cherished grandfather of Nicola, Louise, Anthony, Wesley, Claire and great-grandfather of Ebony, Remi, Ellise, Cody, Maddison and Lexi-Rae.

Ged will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Resting at AG Adams & Son funeral home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Friday February 4.

Requiem mass at St Helens RC Church, Barry at 12.30pm, afterwards cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Marie Curie, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

Kathleen Smith

née Palling of Penllyn

Sister to Bryn, very suddenly on January 17, at Princess of Wales Hospital. She was a loving mother to Roslyn (Merlaht), Geoffrey and Leighton, and proud grandmother to Gethin, Thomas, Dameon, Nathan, James, Jonathan and Phillipa. She will be sadly missed and always loved.

The funeral will take place at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday January 28 at 12 noon.

CRADDOCK

On January 17th 2011, peacefully, Allan, aged 76 years of Newton, Porthcawl.

Beloved husband of Brenda, much loved dad to Sarah and Susan, a loving grandad to Laura, Jennifer, Hannah, Victoria, Charlotte and James and a dear brother of June. Funeral service at St Minver Parish Church, Cornwall, Monday January 31st at 2pm.

Floral tributes, or if preferred, donations in lieu for the Cornwall Air Ambulance by retiring collection or c/o R. J. Bray & Son, Funeral Directors, Bridge End, Wadebridge, Cornwall, PL27 6BX. Tel: 01208 812626.

A gathering will take place in Porthcawl at a later date.

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VARLEY Terry

Peacefully on January 21 at his home in Craig Penllyn, Cowbridge, Terry, formerly senior manager HSBC.

Beloved husband of Gill, devoted father of Carol, Helen and stepfather of Cei, father-in-law of Duncan, Paul and Lisa, loving Grandpa of Rachel, Adam, Lexie, Lily-May, Paul and Szymon.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonnmon. Funeral Tuesday February 1, service and cremation 3.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Marie Curie Nurses c/o J James, 11 Fonnmon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

Birthdays

Congratulations 18th Birthday (February 1st)

JADE O'LEARY

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Enjoy your celebrations!

CAREY THOMAS

Happy 30th Birthday 31st January

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Cool day for charity swim at Barry Island

Photographs by
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CLIC SARGENT, the charity for children with cancer, was the beneficiary last Sunday (January 23) when swimmers braved the freezing waters for the fundraising event.



ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Llancarfan horse could run in Welsh champion hurdle

BARIZAN, trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, is a possible runner for the revived William Hill Welsh Champion Hurdle.

Williams had his biggest disappointment in racing when *Barizan* was collared in the final 100 yards in the Triumph Hurdle at the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival last March, but if *Barizan* were to win at Ffos Las on February 5, Williams, who saddled the first ever winner at the West Wales track, would be absolutely delighted.

Less than two years after becoming Britain's first new turf racecourse

to open in more than 70 years, Ffos Las hosts its biggest day of horse racing to date.

Saturday, February 5, is William Hill Welsh Champion Hurdle day at the Carmarthenshire racecourse.

Some of the best horses over hurdles will be racing, including *Oscar Whisky*, owned by Ffos Las's developer, Dai Walters.

His rivals in the race, worth £45,000 in prize-money, could include *Khyber Kim*, runner-up in the 2010 Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham Racecourse, a race that is a target this year for *Oscar Whisky*.

BRIAN LEE



Local golf pro joins Tiger's computer team



Rhys Davies.

THE Bridgend-based European Tour golfer, Rhys Davies, has become a character in a best-selling computer game.

The US company Electronic Arts Inc, has announced the signing of Rhys as the latest addition to the recently revealed Tiger Woods PGA TOUR® 12: The Masters®.

Rhys, who was also a member at Brynhill Golf Club, will become a 'brand ambassador' for EA SPORTS™ and, as part of the deal, will wear the company logo on his shirt in competition – the first time EA SPORTS has sponsored a golfer on the European Tour.

"We're extremely excited to be partnering with Rhys Davies. He had an exceptional rookie

year on the European Tour in 2010 and is sure to achieve even greater success in 2011," said Shaun White – senior PR manager for EA SPORTS.

Rhys said: "I'm delighted to be appearing in the new game and especially proud to be the first European Tour golfer brand ambassador for EA SPORTS."

"It's every golfer's dream to be immortalised in a video game and I can't wait to compete against my virtual character."

Davies' successful 2010 rookie campaign featured his maiden European Tour victory at the Trophée Hassan II in Morocco.

The 25-year-old from Bridgend added three runner-up finishes and ended the season ranked 18th in the Race to Dubai.



Sully Sports B are in seventh heaven after excellent victory

SULLY SPORTS B got back to league duty and were looking to continue their good run following three league wins on the bounce.

With players still missing through injury, they dug deep into the squad for the home clash with Penarth Town B, who sat a place below Sully in the league.

Both teams started the game with attack in mind and created early chances.

The Sully midfield of Spencer Lamb and

Wesley Lamb saw much of the early ball and involved both wide men, Ryan Boules and Joe McCann, who found himself in a more advanced role this week.

The first goal went to Penarth when a tame shot from their striker was spilled by Ben Gillespie and the same player latched onto the rebound and slotted home into an empty net.

Sully started the second half brightly but needed a goal to really lift the team.

Their equaliser came from a long-range effort

by Spencer Lamb and this seemed to push Sully into the next gear.

Good work down the left saw a through ball which Ryan Boules latched onto, and he danced his way into the area and finished coolly to make 2-1 to Sully.

A great tackle by Wesley Lamb in his own half saw him with a clear run on goal, and a great burst of pace saw him leave the defence standing, race through one on one and slot home into the bottom corner to give Sully some breathing space and a 3-1 lead.

Spencer Lamb found the top corner with a free kick and increased the Sully lead to 4-1.

A further goal was added soon after when good persistence and battling from Shae Ellis saw him finish from close range.

With the game won, Sully made a couple of changes, with a welcome return for Boris Bekker and Jaime Lamb returning from injury.

Sully increased their lead with the goal of the game, a passage of play down the left which saw Jaime Lamb receive the ball 25 yards out and hit an unstoppable shot into the top corner.

To their credit, Penarth kept going and got a goal straight back, with a cross from the

right was met with a good header to make the score 6-2.

With the game coming to an end, Sully got their seventh, as Spencer completed his hat-trick from the spot following a foul.

A mention to Kevin Ball, who had a solid game as usual as centre half and Joe McCann, who had his best game for the club and can count at least five assists from the seven goals.

Sully have again strengthened their squad and are almost where they need to be to really challenge for the league.

Thanks to Penarth for a great game of football and also to the referee.

JL

Pumas extend lead in the table

BARRY Pumas were hoping to extend their lead at the top of the table and do the double over British Military Fitness (BMF).

After 25 minutes, Jamie Randall took on four of the opposition before rounding the keeper to score a fabulous solo effort.

It only took him five minutes to score again, making the score 2-0 at half time.

Pumas came out for the second half with

more goals on their mind and were 4-0 up within 10 minutes, with Callum Taylor scoring his first goal of the season, and Randall completing his second hat-trick in as many games.

BMF had a few chances to reduce the deficit late on, including a penalty which Pumas keeper Michael Lewis pushed onto the bar.

Scott Christophorato scored a late goal from the edge of the 18-yard box to make the final score 5-0.

MORGAN STEPHENS

Llantwit under-13s give good account in game

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-13s travelled to Llandaff North to take on a well-drilled and expansive home side.

Llandaff opened the scoring but Llantwit hit back with Richard Dangerfield scoring under the posts to take the lead 7-5, with Iestyn Jones converting.

Llandaff North were always ready to make the most of turnover ball and scored three more tries but Llantwit again, through Rich Dangerfield, managed to score to make the half time score 26-14 to Llandaff.

The second half began and Llandaff ran in another to make it 33-14.

Llantwit exerted a period of prolonged pressure, with Tom Daley and Corrie Campbell standing out, but could not come away with anything to show for all their efforts.

Llandaff scored another two tries, but Llantwit wouldn't give up and after a good forward drive, Corrie Campbell deservedly got a well-earned try to make the final score 43-21 to Llandaff.

The coaches felt that Llantwit had given a very good account of themselves and if the boys can turn the ball retention around, which shouldn't be a problem, they could do really well in the second half of the season.

SR

Basketball players wanted

BARRY Basketball Club are looking for new members between the ages of 12 and 16 years old.

The club trains at Holm View Leisure Centre, Skomer Road on Sundays, 11am-1pm.

If interested, contact Ian on 07967 56 2392 or look on our website www.barryhuskies.net

Sports put their title hopes in their own hands



ABOVE: There were ferocious early exchanges.

SULLY Sports have put their title chances in their own hands with a convincing victory over league rivals CIACS.

The home side started with striking ferocity and the first points on the board came from the boot of Mike Mees, converting a penalty in front of the posts thanks to the visitors killing the ball at the breakdown.

Sully kept the tempo and the gameplan, and it was inevitable that the

**SULLY SPORTS 25
CIACS 15**

try was coming as the forwards knocked on the door of the CIACS try line.

Prop Andrew Penberthby, who was making his first appearance of the season, drove over the line to extend the lead.

The visitors started to respond to the challenge, resulting in Sully giving away a very kickable penalty that CIACS did not pass up on and three

points were taken.

Sully then collected their next try as they moved down the blind side with the ball doing the work, allowing winger Dave Stillman to touch down in the corner.

Sully switched off during the last play of the half, and through a badly defended clearance kick, they went to sleep to allow CIACS to touch down in the final play of the half.

The second half started less explosively than the first, but Sully then committed the sin of not playing to the whistle when from a CIACS' attacking lineout, their centre looked to have received a forward pass. Several of the home side's defenders stopped – only for the player to waltz under the posts unopposed to give the visitors a converted try and, more importantly, the lead.

One thing that has been evident throughout the season for Sully is their ability to dig deep and claw themselves back into the game, and they did so with great vigour.

The forwards started to impose themselves in the game and it was no surprise that Sully would regain the lead as they recycled the ball through several phases, for winger Dave Stillman to finish off with another try after some deft handling through the back-line.

The game started to

break up and CIACS were at their most dangerous at this style of play, whereas Sully fought back with clinical phases of controlled play and good ball retention.

It was CIACS' willingness to throw the ball out wide that contributed in their downfall, as a wayward pass was intercepted by winger Dave Stillman, who completed his hat trick with a converted try under the posts.

It was once again a great team performance with good impact from the replacements bench showing strength in depth within the squad.

Sully Sports have also the got the chance of winning the league in their own hands, because if they maintain their winning form during their four remaining games, then maybe, just maybe, silverware will be coming to South Road!

Team: L Walters; D Stillman; M Phillips; P Mees (captain); W Jones; M Mees, M Young; J Velda, D Stillman; A Penberthby; M Angove; A Szuchnik, J Di Tomaso; J Thomas; D Russell.

Reps: I Yasin; J Newland; R Franks; R Swinfen; P Miller; J Haysham; S Mills; M Saunders; I Paterson; D Weston.

JDT

Cadoxton Barry in a six-goal thriller

FOR the second successive game, Cadoxton Barry had to settle for a draw after being the more dominant side over the ninety minutes.

**South Wales Senior League
Division One
Cadoxton Barry FC
Lewistown**

3

3

his area with the ball, allowing Mills to convert the set piece from just beyond the box.

Captain Chris Barnet went on a blistering run down the right but his cross to Mitchell Sales saw him send the ball wide.

Lewistown broke upfield just three minutes later for Shane Edwards to reduce the arrears with a quality angled drive from the right side of the box – and an under-weighted pass back to the keeper saw Aaron Pickett intercept to score a gift of an equaliser for Lewistown.

The second half started with a good team passing move that saw Mills' fierce effort bringing out the best in Baker.

Baker was ruled out of having stepped out from

the table, albeit by only goal difference from Garw.

This week the first team are away to Penyarden; players and supporters are requested to assemble at Cadoxton Conservative Club at 11.30am.

Meanwhile, in the Supporters' Cup, goals from McKinney, A Davies, L Stait, Johnstone, Webb, Ellis and Hoare saw the seconds eliminate Cogan Coronation Seconds 2-7.

The Thirds, playing in the Dockers' Cup, went through with a dramatic injury time winner by a 3-4 score line over lowly FC Pumas. Scorers were R Williams (2), Magrin and Ralphs.

This week's club lottery numbers were 3, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15; there were no winners, so next week's offered prize goes up to £450.

Although only one point was earned it was enough to lift Cadoxton Barry off the bottom of

NW

Local library numbers up around Vale

by PHILIP IRWIN

LIBRARIES in the Vale appear to be going against the expected trend by attracting more visitors in recent years.

The figures were revealed in a recent report to the cabinet of the Vale Council, and they show that in eight years, visitor numbers have increased from 422,471 (in 2001/02) to 782,731 (2009/10).

Leading the way is Barry Library, where the numbers have doubled, and it is now the third-busiest in Wales, after Cardiff and Swansea.

Other libraries are also on the up. Penarth, for instance, has gone up by 47 per cent, and 155,000 people visited in 2009/10.

The report says: "Another key indicator of library use is the number of books and other items issued to customers.

"This has also risen, although not as dramatically as the visitor numbers. The number of items issued rose from 582,500 in 2002-3 to 726,500 in 2008-9, representing a 25 per cent increase."

The report adds that there are 62,625 registered library members, with 14,150 of these aged under 16 years.

This means that just over 50 per cent of the residents of the Vale are library members, including 58 per cent of children aged under 16. A key aim of the service over the next few years is to increase the proportion of children aged under 16 who are library

members.

The report says that this progress has helped the Vale move up the league table of Welsh local authorities.

It notes that in the first year of the Welsh Public Library Standards (2002-3), the Library and Information Service in the Vale was achieving six of the 23 standards that comprised the 'First Framework', and it was among the poorest performing services in Wales.

Three years later, in 2004-5, the service was achieving 16 of those standards and was identified by the Welsh Assembly Government as one of the higher achievers in terms of the library standards over that period.

The report goes on to say that the Vale's performance continued to improve over the three-year period of the 'Second Framework', with five standards out of a possible 17 achieved in 2005/6, to 12 standards achieved in 2007-8.

The report says that this compared to an average of nine achieved across Wales in 2007-8.

Now, in the current 'Third Framework' of standards, the library service has hit eight of the 14 standards in the first year (2008-9), and this increased to 10 of the 14 standards in 2009-10.

By comparison, the average number of standards achieved across Wales in 2009-10 was nine, the highest being 13 and the lowest six.

Barry under-9s win at Cowbridge

ON Sunday, Barry under-9s played away at Cowbridge and despite playing against a larger and quicker Cowbridge team, Barry outplayed them from the kick-off.

Barry's elusive running and passing was way too much for the home team to manage, but both teams showed excellent periods of play, especially the tackle area.

Barry opened the

scores with a fine break from Joel followed by further tries from Rhys A, Mason, Jacob and Rhys P.

Coach Grantley, team manager Nikki and all the boys would like to wish Taylor a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back when fit and healthy.

Excellent performances came from Louie, Calvin, Sam, Mason, Rhys A, Ryan, Joel, Jacob, Morgon, Connor, Rhys P, Jake and Ryan.

NT

Bowlers' great achievement



SULLY short green bowlers Marcia Davis, Pat Sweat, Daphne McIntyre and Joan Jones were presented with HOT SHOT certificates and badges by captain Anne Rees after scoring eight shots on one end in a home league match on January 4, played at St Paul's Church Hall, Barry. Well done, ladies!

Imps show of their new kit



Cadoxton Imps under-9s.

Barrivale Bridge Club news

LATEST results from Barrivale for January 18:

1st, Mark Roderick and Kay Dyer 59.38 per cent; 2nd, Irene Thomas and Bryn Gough 57.81; =3rd, Mike Best and Mike Close 56.77; =3rd, Tom Kendrick and Dave Thomas 56.77.

Irene and Bryn won on handicap. New members are always welcome at Barrivale.

For more information ring 01446 733425.

THE Cadoxton Imps under-9s management and team would like to thank Dinas Windows for their kind sponsorship of this season's kit and also thank the Cadoxton Imps committee for their help and support.

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Hywel returns for South Wales Scorpions



Hywel
Davies

SOUTH WALES Scorpions have tempted former Celtic Crusaders and Wales prop Hywel Davies to put his boots back on and play for the Championship One club in the 2011 season.

He will hope to make his debut for the Scorpions against Warrington Wolves in the pre-season friendly at Cardiff Arms Park on Friday, February

11 (kick-off 7.30pm).

The 29-year old played throughout Celtic Crusaders' inaugural two seasons of rugby league in 2006 and 2007, making 53 first team appearances.

He also turned out for Wales in a World Cup qualifier against Scotland in Bridgend in 2006.

Tickets for South Wales Scorpions versus Warrington Wolves, priced £10 for adults and £6 for concessions, can be bought online at www.scorpionsrl.com. IG

Dyspraxia support group

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, February 7, at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry.

The youth section will be showing the DVD which they have made of their presentation, 'Living with Dyspraxia'.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslex-

ia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD, Tourettes) and their parents and carers by providing advice and information, as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, www.vdsg.org.uk.

It also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

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New captain makes a mark at RAF St Athan Golf Club

AFTER the recent snow had closed the golf course for several weeks, the members of RAF St Athan Golf Club were elated that their new club captain, Barrie Hawkins, was able to host the traditional 'drive-in' and pee-wee competition on Sunday, January 2.

Proceedings started with the outgoing captain, Ade Hawkins, presenting the official jacket and tie to Barrie, affectionately known as BJ to fellow golfers.

The members had already placed their markers where they estimated BJ's drive

would settle and BJ took to the first tee with a steady hand, albeit his legs were a little shaky!

Danny Coyle gratefully accepted the bottle of whisky for coming closest with his prediction.

Formalities out of the way, the captain and his team took on the team of the new vice-captain, Steve Hopkins, in a four-ball-better-ball competition, known as the pee-wee trophy. BJ took great delight when announcing that his team were the victors and duly started the celebrations in the clubhouse.

The chamberpot, which the competition is named after, was laden with alcohol and passed first around the



BJ and Danny Coyle

winning team and anything left was shared between the opponents, before BJ announced the pairings with the best stableford points.

First and second place was decided on countback with Pete Morgan and Mike Clark having a better late three than Jamie Miller and Ade Hawkins, both pairings scoring a magnificent 43 points.

BJ wishes all his fellow members at RAF St Athan Golf Club a happy, successful golfing year and he extends these thoughts to anyone wishing to join the club.

Any enquiries can be directed to the club manager, on 01446 751043.

CAROL MORGAN



Ade Hawkins and Barrie Hawkins

Evan's 40-1 Ascot winner

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams saddled his 70th winner of the season when 40-1 outsider *Tiger O'Toole*, given a brilliant ride by stable jockey Paul Moloney, stormed home to beat *Walk On* by half-a-length in an exciting finish to the Victor Chandler.com Handicap Hurdle.

The six-year-old old Irish-bred grey gelding came from a long way

behind to land a famous victory and his future surely rests over the bigger obstacles.

Those lucky punters who backed *Tiger O'Toole* on the tote were rewarded with odds of 66-1!

Meanwhile, Bridgend's Rhys Flint was seen at his best when winning the Rosling King LLP Novices' Limited Handicap Chase on the Phillip Hobbs-trained *Rougham* who got home by half-a-length from the well-fancied *Osric*, ridden by Barry Geraghty.

Llantwit netballers cruise to victory

LLANTWIT took on West End B in a game that was a bit slow at first.

The shooters had an unusual dip in form and were struggling to find the net. However, Llantwit still went into the first break 5-4 up.

In the second quarter, Llantwit stepped it up a gear, and a few positional changes took place, most notably Kim Spargo moving to goal attack.

This helped improve the flow of the game and

LLANTWIT
WEST END B

32
8

Lizzie Thomas (WA) and Jodie Ackland (C) fed into the circle well. By the next break, Llantwit were 14-5 up and looking more like their old selves.

Llantwit moved further ahead through the third and fourth quarters and looked like they were starting to enjoy themselves.

At the final whistle, Llantwit had won comfortably by 24 goals and credit should be given to the defence who stood firm and made some excellent interceptions to turn the ball over numerous times.

Kim Spargo was voted player of the match by the opposing team, which was justified as she seemed here there and everywhere.

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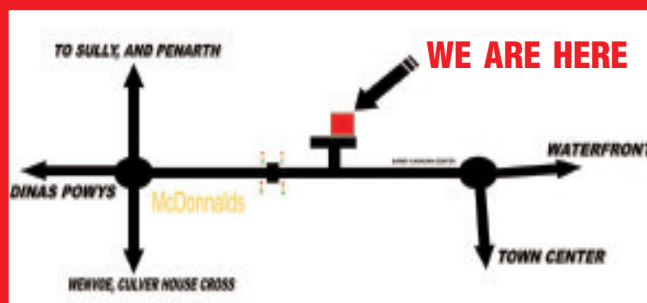
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THE COTTRELL LADIES WELCOME NEW CAPTAIN

ON Thursday, January 20, the new ladies' captain of Cottrell Park golf club, Jenny McGlyne, performed her drive in front of a large crowd of supporters, with an excellent drive straight up the middle of the fairway.

Brenda Margetts placed her flag nearest to where the ball landed and won a newly-minted silver 2011 pound coin.

This was followed by a 12 hole stableford competition on the Mackintosh course in icy conditions, which made the golf very interesting with difficulty keeping the ball on the greens.

In spite of this there were some very good scores. The vice-captain's team beat the captain's team and the individual winner of the captain's team was Chris Impey, while the winner on the vice-captain's team was Sara Williams, both finishing with 25 points.

Sixty-two ladies enjoyed a good lunch; Jenny McGlyne thanked Lorraine Pointon-Bell, immediate past captain, for her hard work over the previous year and presented her with a thank you present from the ladies. She also gave her a special album with a record of her year as captain which she was delighted to receive.

She also welcomed Judy James as her vice-captain before announcing her chosen charity for 2011, which is The Dogs Trust.

She gave a short interesting talk on the history of the 'drive-in' which started in 1754, when the Royal and Ancient Golf Club was formed. A silver club was played for annually, and the winner became captain for a year.

In 1806, the captaincy became an elected position but the R & A retained the fiction of a competition to select a captain. The captain was selected and then entered into a competition in which he was the sole competitor and



Jenny McGlyne, ladies captain.

declared the winner after his first drive from the first tee!

She described some of the social events which will take place over the coming year, and in conclusion, she thanked the ladies for supporting her at her drive-in and lunch and wished them all good golfing in the coming year.



Jenny McGlyne with Lorraine Pointon-Bell.



CB

Chris Impey.



Sara Williams.

The Scorpions' supporters launch 'prediction' league

SOUTH Wales Scorpions' Supporters Club has launched its prediction league for the 2011 season.

The competition, open to any supporters of any club, ran successfully last year with fans predicting the results of South Wales Scorpions' matches.

Barry under-8s lose local game to Sully

BARRY RFC under-8s travelled the short distance to Sully on Sunday in brisk January conditions.

Barry never really got started in both games and managed to lose both fixtures, which is something they haven't done all season.

The visitors still managed to show signs of their entertaining skills but at restarts they were not given the correct space to continue the match.

LS



Barry under-8s in action.

Aberthyn Tim's 20-1 Market Rasen winner

QUO VIDEO, a seven-year-old French-bred gelding trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthyn, romped home a five lengths winner of the Digidbet.com Beginners' Chase under Richard Johnson at far flung Market

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Rasen last Sunday.

Only five runners faced the starter and Quo Video, a winner of two races within six days of each other last season, was surprisingly easy to back at odds of 20-1.

Last Sunday's West Wales Area Club point-to-point at

Lydstep, Tenby, was frozen off and will now take place this Sunday with a later start time of 1pm.

All entries stand and a number of horses from the Vale have been entered including Beth Roberts's prolific winner Chesnut Annie.

www.scorpionsrl.com and click on the Supporters Club or Prediction League links.

The club's second season starts with a challenging friendly match with Warrington Wolves under-20s at Cardiff Arms Park on Friday, February 11.

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Continental	205/55VR17	£87.25	£168	£345
Continental	195/65VR15	£50.25	£97	£184
Continental	195/65VR16	£54.25	£104	£199
Continental	205/55VR16	£58.25	£111	£214
Continental	205/55VR17	£63.25	£122	£245

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Continental	195/65VR15	£50.25	£97	£184
Continental	195/65VR16	£55.25	£103	£199
Continental	205/55VR16	£66.25	£128	£245
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Continental	195/65VR15	£69.25	£132	£250
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GEM sport

WALES IN TIGHT SPOT AS COACH LOOKS TO GIVE YOUTH ITS HEAD

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

EMBATTLED head coach Warren Gatland, who has frankly admitted that his job is on the line if results continue to go against his Welsh team, ending in early World Cup exit later this year, on Sunday unveiled his reduced 28-man squad for the opening of the last Six Nations before they face the acid test in New Zealand.

With Martin Johnson's England the first formidable obstacle to be surmounted at the Millennium Stadium a week tomorrow (February 4) the Kiwi gave this sobering, if understated, assessment on the eve of announcing his 'reshuffle':

"Things have strangely changed over the last week.... We were going into the Six Nations and there was genuine excitement about it.... But we have picked up a few injuries and Gethin (Jenkins) and Adam (Jones) are a big loss to us."

Therein lies the crux of an all too familiar problem for Wales – lack of comparable strength in depth in crucial areas up front – and the absence of pack cornerstones, Adam Jones, in particular, underlines the paucity of world class talent available at tighthead.

Without the hugely-influential Osprey, Wales are undoubtedly a weakened force and the much-relieved English will now surely be licking their lips at the prospect of targeting a scrum denuded of two leading British Lions.

True, the lengthy injury list also threatened to deprive Gatland of several

selection options behind; but the reality is that with wings Shane Williams and Leigh Halfpenny hopefully restored to the back line, they should still outclass the opposition – provided that is, they get the ball in their hands – hence concern over parity of good possession from the coalface.

The national team coach has not been helped in his task of lifting his players' morale for the stern tests that lie ahead, by the latest abject showing of our under-performing Welsh regions in Europe, all of whom failed to reach even the quarter finals of the Heineken Cup.

What an opportunity lost for a major boost to Welsh morale (and finances) with the showpiece final being staged on home turf at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, in front of a huge global audience!

Little wonder there was more than usual interest this week when the Welsh squad was unveiled, as pundits sought to glean some clue as to Gatland's thinking on plugging the gaps torn in his first choice line-up by a spate of injuries.

Worryingly, these are becoming all too common in a modern game that puts the emphasis more on crash-bang macho confrontation than evasive skill and flair.

Younger faces have now been drafted in as the Welsh camp scan the reserve ranks for men able to "step up to the plate" as their former coach Graham Henry was so fond of saying!

All eyes will now be on who gets the nod for the match against England that kicks off at the ridiculous

time of 7.45pm next Friday night (another unwelcome rugby trend I will return to on a future occasion).

WELSH SQUAD
FORWARDS: Paul James (Ospreys), John Yapp (Blues), Craig Mitchell (Ospreys), Ryan Bevington (Ospreys), Scott Andrews (Blues), Matthew Rees (Scarlets, capt), Richard Hibbard (Ospreys), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Bradley Davies (Blues), Ryan Jones (Ospreys), Sam Warburton (Blues), Jonathan Thomas (Ospreys), Andy Powell (Wasps), Josh Turnbull (Scarlets), Dan Lydiate (Dragons), Rob McCusker (Scarlets).

BACKS: Mike Phillips (Ospreys), Dwayne Peel (Sharks), Tavis Knoyle (Scarlets), Stephen Jones (Scarlets), Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), James Hook (Ospreys), Jamie Roberts (Blues), Jonathan Davies (Scarlets), Shane Williams (Ospreys), Morgan Stoddart (Scarlets), Leigh Halfpenny (Blues), Lee Byrne (Ospreys).

Magnificent Seven!

At the recent 125th anniversary dinner of London Welsh RFC (a club I was privileged to follow throughout the '70s of blessed memory) they saluted their seven British Lions, who 40 years ago won the only Test series in New Zealand, under Carwyn James – skipper John Dawes, JPR Williams, Gerald Davies, Mervyn Davies, Geoff Evans, Mike Roberts and John Taylor.

It was an unashamedly nostalgic reminder of how different things were then ... and might be again?

Barry nearly have their party spoiled by Llandaff

LAST Saturday, Barry played host to a Llandaff side, several places below them in the league.

The conditions, whilst cold, were ideal for playing rugby and Barry elected to play against the slope and mild wind in the first session.

The Llandaff kick-off was spoiled by the home team's defence, which seemed to set the tone for the entire half. Poor concentration characterised all their attempts to impose themselves on a side clearly there for the taking.

Aggressive forward play was not converted into territory and the game meandered on until the visitors were yellow carded on the half-hour mark.

Two penalties to the home side were unsuccessful, but one was finally converted after 50

Barry RFC
Llandaff RFC

16
12

minutes!

The referee's watch seemed to have a mind of its own, with 57 minutes elapsing before half time was signalled.

After a dreary ten minutes following the restart, the visitors scored a deserved try wide out that was converted with an excellent kick from the touchline. Good approach play by Hunt, Gee and Morgan enabled the returnee, Cummings, to reduce arrears with a penalty goal.

The game lacked verve and intensity and the home side went off the boil allowing the visitors back into a game which should have been long since wrapped up. They paid the price when Llandaff scored their second try of the afternoon but it remained uncon-

verted.

With 25 minutes elapsed, Barry scored another penalty to set up an interesting final quarter.

The introduction of substitutes saw some much needed pace injected into the play of the home side. With Hadfield, Brown and Gallivan to the fore, Barry established a stranglehold over the opposition pack, but found difficulty in converting this advantage into points.

One problem appeared to be a lack of communication between back row and scrum-half at the set scrums.

The Barry eight were making good progress and moving forward with the ball at their feet, but the inside-half seemed intent on picking the ball

off the back of the scrum and spreading it wide.

If the pack is doing that well, the back row are best left to control matters.

However, on the stroke of time, Barry exerted enough pressure to force the away side to concede a penalty try that was successfully converted.

The home side deserved the spoils but should not have let Llandaff get into a position to spoil the party.

Man of the match: M George.

Team: Ryan, Adams, Cummings, Busitil, Provis, Lee, Gallivan, Hunt, Gee, Morgan, Williams, Gill, Jones, Brown, George. Subs: Hollister, King, O'Sullivan, Hadfield.

This Saturday, Barry travel to Pontyclun for a fixture re-scheduled from last year.

CO

Wembley dream ends for Stanwell girl footballers

A GIRLS' football team at Stanwell school, Penarth, has been pipped for the chance to play at Wembley.

The Stanwell 'Bumblebees', noted for yellow and black kit, took part in the NPower under-13s Football League Community Cup; an annual six-a-side competition for girls which is played throughout Wales and England, culminating at Wembley before the end-of-season Football League playoffs.

The 'Bumblebees' reached the final of the regional competition, held at Cardiff City's new training facility in Leckwith, but the girls' hopes were dashed when a late Cardiff High School goal broke the deadlock to secure a 1-0 win, a spokeswoman said.

Football sessions for girls were introduced at both Stanwell and nearby St Cyres Comprehensive



Girls from Stanwell School in Penarth who took part in the regional football tournament.

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Youngster joins Bristol City



Wesley Burns is joining the Bristol City academy.

A former Llantwit Major junior footballer has won a two year scholarship with Bristol City.

Sixteen-year-old Wesley Burns, who was born in Barry and now lives in Flemingston, recently played for Bristol City's under-16s and under-18s before getting the nod from the west country club's academy coaches.

Wesley, an attacking right winger with blistering pace, played for Barry Athletic under-8s and began a long involvement with Cardiff City at the age of eight.

He played for Llantwit Major under-12s after he was released by

Cardiff for a short time, before returning to the Cardiff academy for a further four years.

After failing to get a scholarship in December, Wesley was approached by Exeter City, Bristol Rovers and Bristol City – and chose the latter to pursue his career.

Wesley attends the Welsh school in Barry Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.

Gwyn John, the secretary at Llantwit Junior Football Club, said the club was delighted at Wesley's progress and said it was another example of a Llantwit player making his way with a professional club.

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